

THE
BUZZ BOMB KINGS

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A HISTORY
OF THE
407TH AAA GUNBN

COMMANDED BY—
LT. COL. CLEO E. GOLES

NARRATIVE BY:
PVT. ROBERT J. KATZ

769.343

407th

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OCT 15 '75

This Battalion History is humbly dedicated to the following 407th men who gave their lives in the armed services of their country:

PFC. JAMES DE PINO

T/4 MARSHALL J. SHERD

T/5 JAMES J. BURNS, JR.

Members of the 407th, Past and Present:

This is probably the last word I shall have for a good many of you, and I hope that in later years the reading of this book will recall pleasant memories of the old friends and comrades with whom you lived, worked, and fought through World War II. To paraphrase an old expression, a lot of dirt has been moved since January, 1943. In that period the 407th has compiled a proud record of accomplishment in spite of tremendous difficulties, both training and combat. I can only repeat that I am proud to have commanded such a splendid organization, and in parting wish one and all the best of good fortune in the years to come.

Cleo E. Coles

Lt. Col., C. A. C., Commanding.



OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Colonel Cleo E. Coles (center), Major Lewis A. Bonifay (left), Major Ernest Gustafson (right)

FOREWORD

HISTORY will record many outstanding achievements and accomplishments of this war, some undoubtedly more deserving of words of praise than the feats of this anti-aircraft artillery battalion. Some probably overshadow the heroic work of this organization in its important victory over the V-1. Some may seem more appalling than the untiring efforts of every man in the 407th during this strange battle against pilotless aircraft which had wrought destruction upon the great cities of London and Antwerp and which threatened to completely sever the all-important supply lines so thinly stretched over some 5,000 miles.

Histories of this kind are never complete. Many tales of individual greatness will be omitted; many stories of less important battles will be touched on lightly. But this unit's work in the defense of Antwerp brought forth the great spirit of our men, who, under the most adverse conditions, manned their guns twenty-four hours of every day. For 154 days and nights one of the greatest pages of anti-aircraft history was being written while our ninety millimeters proved, beyond a shadow of a doubt, their mastery of the German V-1.

To the untiring efforts of the following men who devoted hours of their free time, Captain William A. Blose, Technicians Fifth Grade Lawrence Wallace, Russell Albaugh and Joseph O'Malley, this history is dedicated. With the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of this major victory of the war, become a life long possession, and be a constant reminder of your battalion's great efforts, the following pages are presented.



THE BATTALION'S STAFF OFFICERS

Front Row: Captain Randolph May, Major Lewis Bonifay, Lieutenant Colonel Cleo E. Coles, Major Leonard Logan, Captain Julian Sprinkle. Second Row: Captain Alfred Lee, Lieutenant Hope Powell, Warrant Officer Raymond Brehmer, Warrant Officer Joseph Guarneri, Captain George Gordon. Rear Row: Captain James Walmy, Lieutenant George Thompson, Lieutenant Michael Von Moschzisker, Captain Howard Whittum.

CHAPTER I

AN INTRODUCTION TO ARMY LIFE

BUZZ Bomb Kings of Antwerp "X," the 407th Anti-aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion was activated at Camp Haan, California on 10 January 1943. Lieutenant Colonel Cleo E. Coles, a small group of selected Officers, specially trained at Camp Davis, North Carolina, and an enlisted cadre from Camp Callan, California and the 401st AAA Gun Battalion were destined to form the nucleus of this anti-aircraft unit. This Battalion eventually was to face the rigors of modern warfare against an air force which the Nazi war mongers claimed would rid the world of democracy and the freedoms of speech, press, and religion as they had abolished them throughout the continent of Europe.

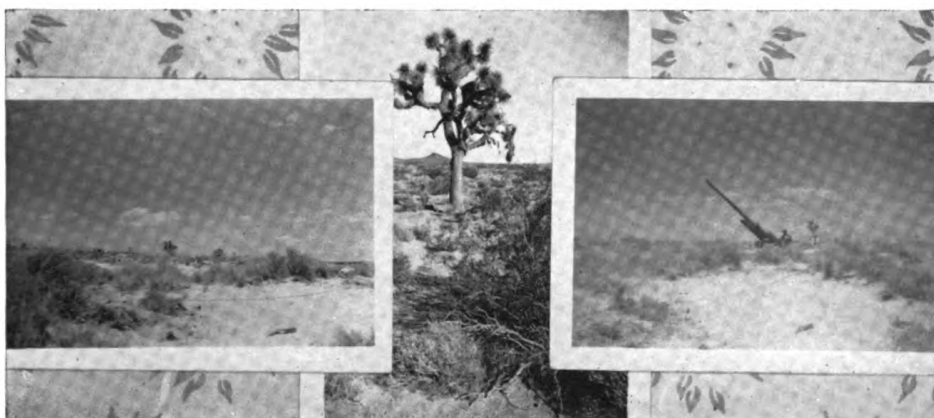
The 407th grew to full size as twenty second lieutenants from Camp Davis Officer Candidate School and some seven hundred men from Fort Devens, Massachusetts and Fort Sill, Oklahoma arrived on 28 January 1943. . . . And then basic training and the rough introduction to Army procedure began on the sandy wastes of Southern California.

It was in Camp Haan where most of the personnel really got to know the Army. This anti-aircraft training center, near the town of Riverside, California, famous for its Mission Inn and great orange groves, provided the men with little in the way of recreation but did help to perform the miracle of changing civilians into first class fighting men. Riverside could not possibly accommodate the weary soldiers who looked forward to week-end passes and freedom as avidly as the rationed civilian longed for a porterhouse steak. Nearby March Air Field further complicated the matter. But the men trekked sixty miles to Los Angeles and Hollywood, world famous center of the motion picture industry, to enjoy their thirty-six hours of relaxation and pleasure. Some ventured as far South as San Diego, invading the home base of the United States Pacific Fleet and Marine Corps. But week-end passes were few as the Battalion, after a rugged eight-week course covering military courtesy and proper appearance, first aid and the knowledge of basic warfare, anti-aircraft gunnery and identification of Allied and Axis planes, as well as communications and infantry drill, pulled stakes and traveled for the first time in Army convoy to Camp Irwin, California, in the heart of the Mojave Desert, not too far from Death Valley.

The five hundred New Englanders in the Battalion found it difficult to acclimate themselves to the blistering hot tropical sun and the tremendously high humidity, but along with the men from the Southwestern States of Oklahoma and Texas, they strove to overcome this sudden change in climate. Perspiration poured forth and the work day seemed long and arduous but, after a few trying weeks, the men were down to fighting weight and the brilliant rays of the sun had tanned the youthful bodies of these teen-age G. I. Joes. The 407th had been certain of success since the arrival of the men at Camp Haan, when their service records revealed the average age as not quite twenty. As is generally accepted to be fact, the youthful civilian drafted into service becomes the most effective soldier.

Our new training site, Camp Irwin, provided us with our first taste of field conditions and taught us how the Army labors with the least amount of facilities. Immediately on our arrival at the West Range we pitched pyramidal tents but these "glorified castles" were soon torn down and "pup tents" put to use.

It was here that the 407th received its baptism. The going suddenly became tough—according to many veterans of this organization, "Normandy at its worst, eliminating the mental strain of the nearby front lines, was always one hundred per cent better than the Mojave at its best." With the temperature hovering at about 100 degrees fahrenheit, the men were pushed through a gruelling training schedule, more exacting than the most difficult chore presented to the precision worker at home. Classes went on day and night until gun drills ceased and the order for practice fire against ground targets was given. Battery "D," commanded by Captain Howard A. Whittum, then a first lieutenant, scored a direct hit with its first round. After this successful mission, the Battalion was given an opportunity to use its 90 mm at an aerial target. Once again it was "D" Battery's sharp shooting gunners who scored the first kill, blasting two sleeves from the skies on the first three courses.

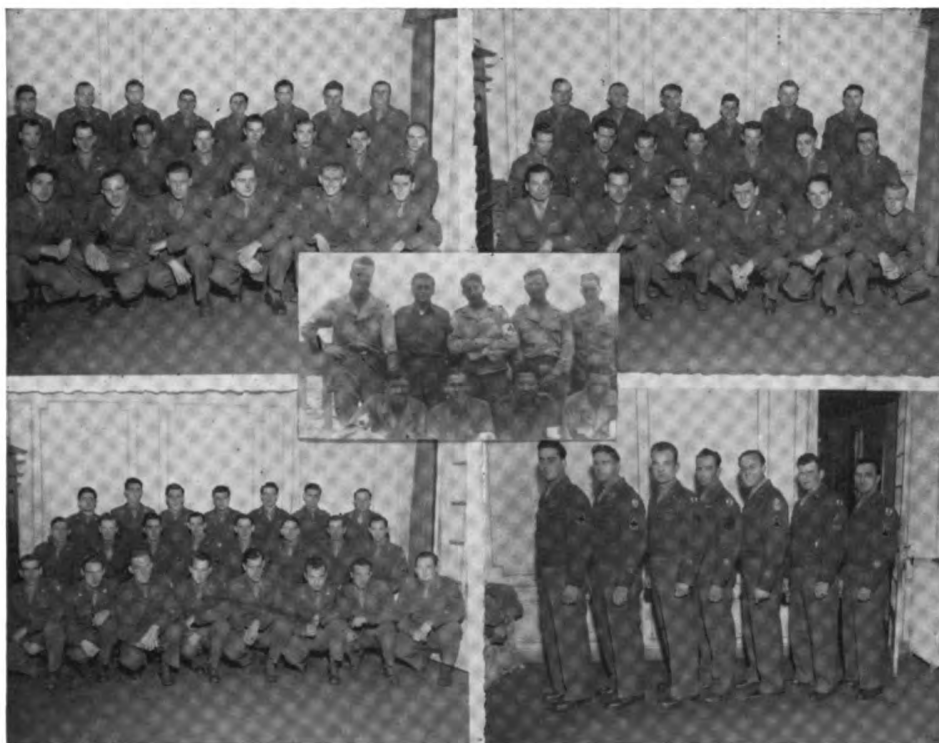


Desert Scenes from the Mojave—Our Basic Training Days

From then on until the order came to proceed to Muroc Army Air Base, it was one hardship after another. The much-publicized infiltration course, stretching over two hundred yards of desert sand, introduced everyone to the suffering endured by the ground soldier under combat conditions. With thirty caliber machine gun bullets whizzing just fourteen inches above their heads and land mines exploding as soldiers approached danger areas, the men of the 407th suddenly became aware of the fact that war meant life or death and the survival of the fittest.

Forced marches with full pack, twenty-five mile hikes, a trip to the rifle range for a practice session with a new friend, the M-1 Garand rifle, and a fifty mile, two-day tramp, which almost every man in the Battalion completed, rounded out the Camp Irwin training schedule. But even then the hardships were not past. The natural elements seemed to frown upon this Anti-Aircraft unit as a desert wind storm destroyed almost every tent in the area just before we shoved off for the Muroc Army Air Base.

Our twelve-day duty at Muroc during the early part of June proved invaluable to the range sections as they were given hour upon hour of tracking practice. With Lt. Col. Coles back at the helm (he had left for specialized training shortly after the arrival of the men from the Reception Centers), the Battalion returned to Camp Irwin to be assigned to the 113th AAA Group and the 57th AAA Brigade. It was at this time that our official designation was changed from the 407th Coast Artillery Battalion AA to the 407th Anti-aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (Semi-mobile). On 29 June 1943, the unit left



(Upper Left) HQ Battery—Front Row: Guerero, Lillo, McKee, Guber, Wright, Toy. Second Row: Warner, Pope, Lujan, Kitchen, _____, Avitable, Hill, Thomas. Third Row: Archambault, _____, Wilkins, Philbrick, Fazio, Van Houten, Sullivan, Gershkoff.

(Upper Right) HQ Battery—Front Row: Katz, Dyer, Merrill, Duffy, Bernstein, Sacotnik. Second Row: Brooks, Graham, Ryerson, Raczkowski, Kuhn, Harvey, Sacco. Third Row: Wayman, Townsend, Karpel, Dorso, Michalec, Grace.

(Lower Left) HQ Battery—Front Row: Summervill, Dudley, Arthur, Gordon, Mincy, Laube, Matthews, Poorman. Second Row: Harrell, Weiss, Murgia, Mussell, Daly, Kelliher, Chamberlain, Wallace. Third Row: Bonito, Demusis, Cantieny, Iannuzzi, Demartino, Landry, Marmelstein.

(Lower Right) HQ Battery's Section Leaders—Murgia, Kelliher, Laube, Pope, Lillo, Duffy, and Sacco. Missing from picture: Mussell and Gianelli.

(Center) The 407th Medical Detachment—Front Row: Huffman, O'Bryan, Captain Lee, O'Grady. Back Row: Upton, Captain Gordon, Saslow, O'Reilly, Hansen.

Irwin to participate in a five day infantry maneuver. During this the men became acquainted with the tactics of the "doughboys" as they went about the tasks of capturing machine gun nests, night patrolling, advancing under fire, and many other items of lesser importance that led the American infantryman to adopt the slogan, "Kill or be killed."

The maneuver completed, the 407th returned to the West Range to fire a service test before the advance party set out for Camp Haan, California on 4 July 1943. Captain James Walmy Jr, and Captain Leonard B. Logan joined the Battalion and were assigned to Batteries "A" and "B" respectively as Battery Commanders.

Camp Haan with its many recreational facilities, such as athletic fields, post exchanges and service clubs, was only available to the men for two weeks, as the "nomads" of the U. S. Army, the 407th, moved once again to Muroc for another five-day maneuver.

Just prior to leaving Camp Haan, Master Sergeant Raymond D. Brehmer, popular cadreman from the 401st, was appointed Warrant Officer Junior Grade.

From Muroc, the Battalion passed through Camp Irwin on its way to Leach Lake, this never to be forgotten firing range in the Southern part of Death Valley which is known to be one of the hottest spots in the United States. Brigadier General Cricklow, then in command of Camp Irwin training, designated this particular area for our firing in order to test the electrical and mechanical equipment used by Gun Battalions. The convoy had to cross a high range and then drop down to the floor of Death Valley. If the equipment were to act up due to extreme changes in climate this acid test would show it.

The equipment proved perfect but the men suffered greatly. Taking abnormal quantities of salt tablets and water, the Battalion finally finished its firing and, thoroughly exhausted from the steady grind of the previous six months, returned to Camp Haan to await further orders.

The Orders Came. Lt. Col. Coles immediately held his first battalion critique in the GI theater at Topside, and after complimenting the men for their fine display of fighting spirit and excellent work during the first six months of training, assured them that fur-loughs would begin on 8 August. The large number of men headed across the continent by land at one time would have put a tremendous burden on the already hard-pressed railroads (air travel was not permitted except in case of emergency), so the Joes of the 407th were divided into four groups leaving on successive days.

Although a large percentage of the men came from Oklahoma, Massachusetts, and Texas, it was New Haven, Connecticut, a thriving community of some 180,000 that really put out the "welcome mat" to the 300 enlisted personnel of the 407th from the "Elm City." For fifteen days, these civilian soldiers returned to their normal everyday, pre-war life, but when 18 August rolled around, it was time to become GI again. So the men took leave of their families and regretfully began the long journey back to Camp Haan.



A BATTERY, COMMANDED BY CAPT. FRED SHEA

First Row : Grotti, Krupochowitz, Dempsey, Lee, Newman, Furbee, Kaplowitz, Clabaugh, Knight, Jorgenson, Lt. Sepp, Lt. Fimiani, Capt. Shea, Lt. Wright, Poisson, Nimm, Stevens, Nagel, Plese, Small, Derbabian, Thorne, Polzin, Heller. Second Row : O'Malley, Eyler, Allen, Porche, Miller, Harp, Blackstone, Bernardini, DiCrosta, H. Smith, Simiola, Frasca, Sagnella, Carbone, Mahoney, Whitney, Parker, Stewart, J. Carriero, Ammons, Walsh, Niemiec, Bell, Ferrell. Third Row : Kilgore, Preble, Cocca, Giordano, Criscuola, Desterphano, McNeal, M. Carriero, Garcia, Keene, Avalos, Cable, Brelsford, Wilson, Hayes, Hill, Winkle, DiMassa, Fisher, Guerrera, Castanza, Picardo, Hinkle. Fourth Row : Rendon, McCannell, Kadil, Burns, West, Della Valle, Corrano, Pariseault, McDonald, Wenerstrom, Zabek, Savarese, Carter, Gallant, Salisbury, Reed, Monette, Payne, Ondelacy, Blalock, Beauregard, Crampton, Owlecio, Kyllonen, Scroggins, White, Fultz. Fifth Row : Mason, R. Smith, Neilley, Scott, James C. Allen, London, Cox, Sill, Ott, Jay C. Allen, Green, Waitscox, Pritt, Roberson, Dorman, Wootten, Rogers, Porter, Turner, Heighinton.

Upon their arrival on the West coast they found little time to recover from their trip as instructions had been received from higher headquarters ordering the 407th to proceed without delay to Corvallis, Oregon.

After a two-day rail trip through California and Oregon, during which most of the men saw for the first time the snow covered peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, the Battalion set up its anti-aircraft guns around Corvallis Army Airdrome. Then began the combined training of AAA Gun and Automatic Weapons Battalions with the Air Force for the defense of Air Corps installations.

There is little doubt that we benefited greatly from this tactical field problem as we were given our first taste of night alerts, "commando" raids, and at the same time impressed with the importance of camouflage to a defensive AAA set-up. Range chiefs of sections and gun commanders viewed the positions from the air as the Fourth Air Force did everything within its power to make this initial attempt at combined operations a success. An armistice in this mock battle was called on 18 September 1943, but only after thirty men and Second Lieutenant Nathan E. Langstaff were called out to combat a forest fire that was threatening the township of Monroe, Oregon.

Although weekend passes were negligible, some of the Battery Commanders permitted night passes to Eugene, the home of Oregon State College. "The Holland," a small night club on the outskirts of this famous lumber center, was the popular spot for the



(Upper Left) A Battery Gun Crew 3—Front Row : Picardo, Niemiec, London, Plese, Ferrer. Second Row : Gallant, Ott, R. Smith, Monette, Costanza. Last Row : Fultz, Porche, Reed.

(Upper Right) A Battery Gun Crew 4—Kneeling in Front : Avolos, Frasca. Back Row : DeStephano, Neilley, Whitley, Sill, Cable, Rendon, Ullom.

(Lower Left) A Battery Gun Crew 1—Front Row : Nagel, Rogers, Furbee, Porter. Second Row : DiCrosta, Harp, Plumley, Hill, Ammons, Wootten. Last Row : L. Allen, Heighington, Miller.

(Lower Right) A Battery Gun Crew 2—Front Row : Bell, H. Smith, Newman, Jay C. Allen, Green. Second Row : Fisher, Garcia, Carter, Albert. Third Row : McNeal, Kelley, Blalock.

men of this organization. It was here that many of us made acquaintances with men from the 104th "Timberwolf" and 70th "Trailblazers" Divisions, stationed at nearby Camp Adair, both of which were to become famous as integral parts of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's powerful Allied striking force in the European Theater of Operations.

Salem Army Air Base was the next stop on our travels through the Western States. This was another of the now daily experimental routines as the 407th combined forces with the 487th AAA AW Battalion. Lt. Col. Coles assumed command of HQ, B, and C Batteries of this organization and Batteries A and B of the Automatic Weapons unit, while Lt. Col. Fultz, commanding officer of the 487th controlled the operations of HQ, C, and D Batteries of his own battalion and Batteries A and D of the 407th.

The incessant rain that fell throughout the week's maneuver lowered the high spirit of the Battalion. But the men, sleeping in pup tents, dug into wet, boggy ground and though lacking even facilities for drying their clothes, kept up their exceedingly high standard of work. A heavy incidence of naso-pharyngitis was reported by Captain George S. Gordon, Battalion Surgeon from Lynn, Massachusetts.

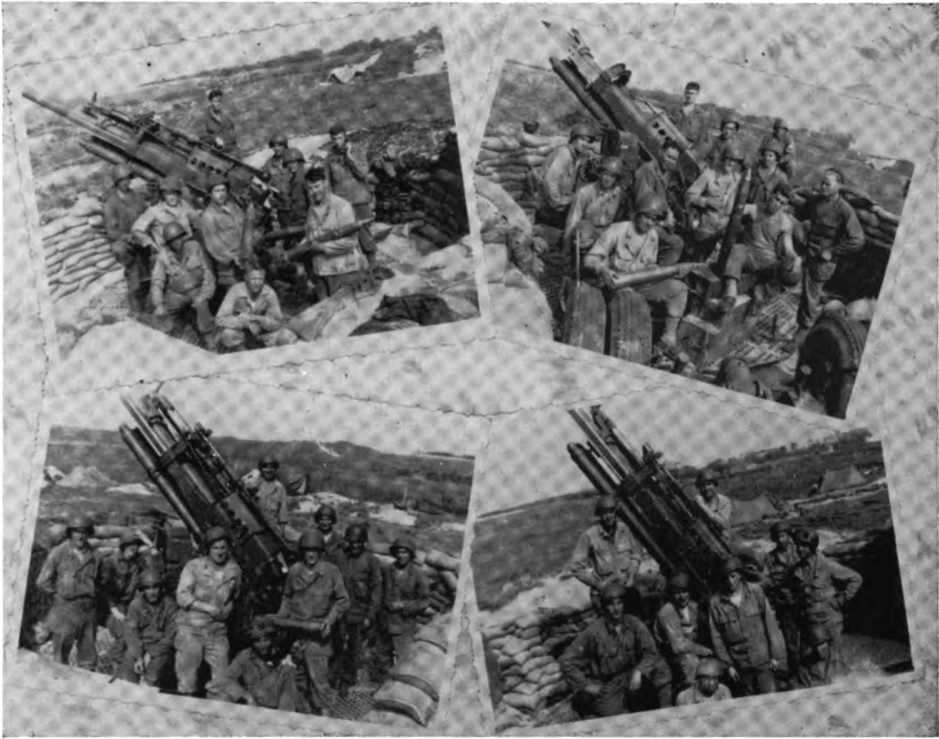
The next phase of our advanced training was to be the most intensive, most important portion of the unusual schedule set forth for the proficient gunners of this Anti-aircraft Battalion. No one at that time realized, that our duty at Marysville, California would complete our training in the Zone of the Interior and that we would shortly be crossing the continent for overseas processing and an eventual trip to Great Britain. Once again Lt. Col. Coles, 1st Lt. Curran and 1st Lt. May left the Battalion area as the advance party to Marysville Army Base on 15 October 1943.

The main body of the Battalion followed soon afterwards, and completed the occupation of its positions on 20 October 1943. Batteries B and C were attached to the 488th AAA AW Battalion at Oroville, California. First Lieutenant Edward T. Curran, Battalion Operations Officer, led a small contingent of Headquarters Battery men to the Oroville set-up which consisted mainly of men from the S-3 section who were to act in an advisory capacity. Meanwhile the main body of troops was undergoing the usual pressure of practice warfare as it first defended and then attacked the Marysville Army Air Base in a series of AA offensive and defensive problems.

On 30 October 1943 our duty at Oroville was completed and the 407th was once again at full strength. Every enlisted man and officer was vitally important at this stage of the game as all of our excess personnel had been transferred from this organization to the Replacement Depot at Pittsburg, California. These seventy odd men had originally been slated to form a cadre, but their orders had been cancelled when AAC Headquarters at Richmond, Virginia, decided that there was no need for further activation of Anti-aircraft Battalions.

Rumors started to fly at Marysville. Helmets were issued to every man and M-1 rifles had only been in our possession for one week when huge crates were noticed at Battalion Headquarters labeled "San Francisco Port of Embarkation." Pacific War news was the center of interest.

Although the "air and ground war" continued for twenty-four hours of the day, and the Batteries were at all times prepared for either an air raid or an attack by a patrol from a Filipino Infantry Regiment which was to gain fame as part of the Fifth Army in the Mediterranean, some of the sports enthusiasts spent their few off-duty hours playing football. A larger number paid nightly visits to the "Snack Shack" which served hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, and Coca-Colas. One twenty-four hour pass was permitted every week. Marysville did not provide enough in the way of social activities so the men visited Sacramento, just fifty miles to the South.



(Upper Left) B Battery Gun Crew 1—Foreground: Mulqueen, Hilliard. Second Row: James, Pratt, Haley, Jones. Background: Beck, Porter, McClendon, Naylor.

(Upper Right) B Battery Gun Crew 2—Foreground: Raines. Second Row: Bray, Watson, Loman, Braswell, W. J. Brown, Peterson. Last Row: Molleur, Remer, Bertram, Thomas.

(Lower Left) B Battery Gun Crew 3—First Row: Neal, Michaud, Lima, Katulis, Alves, Rowe. Background: Amor, Erbe, Pericello, Roas.

(Lower Right) B Battery Gun Crew 4—Kneeling: Rodriguez, Gallant. Standing: Celentano, Talancy, Hall, Miller. In Rear of Gun: Warren, Gibbs, Schweitzer.

"B" Battery's equipment was seriously damaged by a grass fire which started in its area during the afternoon of 5 November and could not be brought under control for a few hours. The radar van was destroyed and many of the men lost all of their personal equipment and clothing which raised the estimate of damage to \$10,000. New materiel was immediately brought in and the operation of the Battery was not at all handicapped. Soon after, it was "B" Battery which attacked the air base and successfully captured it, causing a distraught Air Corps Major to exclaim, "They didn't warn us. It wasn't fair."

On 12 November the 407th stood off a "guerilla raid" by the Filipino doughboys and celebrated its victory when an armistice was declared on 16 November. One third of the men were given three day passes and it became evident that the morale, which had been below the usual standard after the trying days at Salem, was now exceedingly high. Meanwhile the men remaining in the Battalion bivouac area made ready for the remaining phases of the maneuver.

The armistice ended on the morning of 18 November.

The following day a parade was held at the air base for the presentation of an Air Medal to a pilot who had just returned from the South Pacific. A heavy rainfall made the formations miserable, but failed to interrupt the ceremony. General Morris of the Fourth Air Force complimented the 407th as the parade ended, saying, "They look like a seasoned lot."

There was no let-up in the rain; no facilities for drying clothes, and the organization had not yet been issued overshoes. Battery positions became quagmires. The men, compelled to work in ankle deep mud and under the most adverse conditions, were further hindered in their efforts when they were ordered to send a considerable number of enlisted personnel to camouflage and identification of aircraft schools.

As Thanksgiving approached, the first away from home for most of the men, Colonel Coles and eight other officers left for San Francisco for an inspection of the Air Operations Room. Then came Thanksgiving day. Organized athletic events took place and the dinner, with all of the usual trimmings, followed a solemn morning of prayer and the rendering of thanks to God that we were of a democratic land, and that at least the tide of war had turned. For now we, of the Allied Forces, had gained control of the air and sea and had made preparations for the eventual ground victories on Continental Europe.

Shortly thereafter, on 8 December, an armistice to this problem became effective. The S-1 section made arrangements for a move to Camp Beale, California. This was just a stop-over as we immediately set to work, loading box cars for our trip across the States to Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. Our men were in the best physical shape of their lives at the end of eight months in the field. The continual movement that had marked the unusual training of a semi-mobile gun battalion, the long hours of digging and the vigorous and continual work in the open air had toughened the soldiers of the 407th. This was reflected in the diminished number of men reporting for the morning sick calls.

We left Camp Beale in two serials on 18 December, enroute to the East Coast. Some of the New Englanders thought of a Christmas at their homes in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont, but their dreams were rudely shattered by the seemingly slow moving troop train. The first serial arrived on Christmas Eve, unloaded the next day, and a few men spent Christmas Night with their loved ones, but the second serial did not fare as well. Christmas Eve found the train lumbering through



B Battery—Kneeling: Alves, Alberico, Loman, Banks. First Row: Popey, Rowe, Remer, LaFlex, Hall, Bowen, Lt. Fairchild, Lt. Lage, Erbe, Rodriguez, Luff, Braswell. Second Row: Alpert, Gussick, W. D. Brown, Rossetti, Driend, DeVergillo, DiCapua, Gulino, Talancy, Trafacante, Pelligrino, Rosa, Goldstein, Marsincavage, Michaud. Third Row: Black, Kurtz, Hightower, Aragon, Mulqueen, Schweitzer, McClendon, Napoli, Chase, Harjo, Swift, Bray, Bagloe, Raines, Beck, Porter, Thomas, McCutchen, Crisp, Warren, Hunter, Gallant, Hamilton, Spiney.

Albany, New York, and Christmas Day passed by drearily as the equipment was removed from the box cars.

Quite a few of the officers and some enlisted personnel were now further from home than at any other time in their Army careers, but our short stay at Camp Edwards did afford the New Englanders an opportunity to visit their homes on short overnight passes. The excellent transportation facilities available in Massachusetts and the other North-eastern States permitted many of us to make week-end journeys and sight seeing tours to Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Providence, Rhode Island, and Boston—always allowing enough time for our arrival at camp well before the Monday morning reveille formations. The fine Cape Cod weather astonished the Southerners of the 407th who were prepared for the worst after hearing Massachusetts men spin yarns about the wild winter of '43. But there was little time for social events, passes, and tall tales as the overseas alert orders had the Battalion area constantly humming with activity. Last minute requisitions, dental check-ups, the addition of badly needed replacements and the last minute reprieve from overseas duty for those physically unfit, had clerical men "up to their ears" in work.



B Battery—First Row: W. J. Brown, James, Robinson, Keese, Gibbs, Cullen, Naylor, Marinez, Lashbrook, Hilliard, Haley, Bell, Rubio. Second Row: DeRosa, Vickery, Fredette, Atwood, Pesut, Puglisi, Roberson, Capt. Curran, Lt. Lorenzini, Amor, Whitehouse, Reynolds, Sirois, Prentice, McLaughlin, Bereta. Third Row: Miller, Cormier, A. Lehmann, Randolph, Cadieux, Garcia, Buonome, Pericello, Midolo, Church, Watson, Barbour, Askew, Wilson, G. Lehmann. Fourth Row: Bertram, Wawzyniak, Luciano, Carder, Faust, Rasmussen, Burns, Sullo, Pratt, Chenevert, Molleur, Ciaccia, Lima, Celentano, Nocito. Last Row: Simons, Rehmann, Williams, Nelson, Roe, Neal, Gomez, Katulis, J. Wilson, Whitfield, Gordon, Cooper, Jones, Duckett, Chapman.

There was absolutely no doubt as to our status. Everyone expected the trip across the ocean to become a reality soon. Captain William A. Blose rejoined the unit after completing his duty at Camp Davis, North Carolina, and assumed command of "D" Battery while Lieutenants Morean, Gross and Koppel were transferred to Camp Davis as overstrength. And then Colonel Coles received a readiness date, 10 January 1944—but AAATC, taking into consideration the fact that most of our men had not been home for a long period of time, gave the "go ahead signal" for a second furlough.

When the men returned to camp, the firing of small arms, immunization of all personnel, and all the other requirements of POM were completed. Then the Battalion moved to Scorton's Neck Firing Point for their last test firing mission in the United

States. The men knew their anti-aircraft weapons well and they quickly impressed General Harriman, Commanding Officer of this Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center, by displaying some of the most accurate AA fire ever seen at the Scorton's Neck range. Battery "D" once again proved its skill by blasting a "bug" (miniature plane) from the sky with its third salvo.

As February rolled around, everyone suspected that our days in America were numbered. Some final switches and transfers of officers were made to equalize the Battery strength. Lieutenant George Luedke was transferred to another unit, and Lieutenant Dwight H. Jenkins replaced him in C Battery. A few others made last minute changes before Warrant Officer Raymond D. Brehmer, Captain Randolph P. May and Technician Fourth Grade Chris Cantieny received notice to leave for the New York Port of Embarkation on 13 February 1944. After our advance party was on its way, the Battalion prepared for a move to an overseas staging area, Camp Myles Standish at Taunton, Massachusetts.

CHAPTER II OVERSEAS

PROCESSING completed, the 407th departed from Camp Edwards on 15 February 1944 and proceeded by rail to Camp Myles Standish, near the town of Taunton, Massachusetts. The importance of secrecy and censorship was stressed continually during our first days at this staging area. The poster seen on billboards all over the country during our civilian and early Army days, "A Slip of the Lip may Sink the Ship," suddenly became a grim reality as every member of the 407th fully realized that the short walk up the gangplank was not too far distant.

Staging began. The nervous strain precipitated by our headlong dash across the States, our long months of basic training, and the excitement of overseas preparation at Camp Edwards was beginning to tell on all of the personnel. Long chow lines and continual formations did not help matters, nor did the daily show-down inspections and physical examinations.

For the first few days, passes to nearby Providence and for some men, to their New England homes, were not permitted, but on 18 February our Battalion's restriction was lifted. Fillers reported for duty, relieving the few men who were found unfit for overseas, hazardous duty. And on 20 February, word was received that the Advance Detachment had sailed on the USS Aquitania from New York harbor.

Things were happening fast. Time seemed to surge forward as every minute in the United States seemed only a second and every day but an hour. Night Passes came to an abrupt end, and the words, "Restricted Alert," were on the lips of everyone. Thoughts of what lay ahead; thoughts of the lessons taught by innumerable field and training manuals; thoughts of families, wives, and sweethearts; thoughts of the "Why We Fight" films; yes, thoughts of everything to be missed and to be endured were in the hearts and souls of everyone as the 407th AAA Gun Battalion, now known simply as 6222-C, our shipping secret code, boarded the trains amidst the usual fanfare of brass bands and saluting guards. We were bound for the Boston Port of Embarkation.

The crowded coaches of the New York, New Haven and Hartford troop trains sped through the state of Massachusetts, giving the men of the Bay State their last look at home soil. Gradually we worked our way along the freight tracks at the Boston shipping yards before the train lurched to a halt in front of what appeared to be just a grey mass of iron and steel, somewhat resembling an ocean liner. The men immediately fell in behind their battery commanders, and for the last time the sailing rosters were checked. Red Cross girls passed out doughnuts and coffee, two American delicacies that we were not to have again for some time to come. And then the order to sling duffle bags and rifles was given, and the 407th started the long trip up the gang plank to the crowded berths of a lower deck. There was a touch of irony as one Joe shouted, "Hell, we'll never go overseas," an exclamation which had been heard constantly throughout our sojourn on the Mojave Desert.

Three other anti-aircraft units, the 792nd AAA AW Battalion, the 776th AAA AW Battalion, and the 114th AAA Group, were already aboard. A large contingent of Nurses and a still greater number of Air Corps Officers, unassigned, made the journey a pleasant

one—for the commissioned personnel at least. The upper decks were "Off Limits" to all enlisted men, so the officers put them to good use for cementing good relationship with the members of the Army Nurse Corps.

The sun shone brilliantly during most of the twelve-day voyage, allowing the AAA Group Special Service Section to arrange a daily card of boxing bouts on the after deck. The men of this Battalion showed a great deal of enthusiasm for this sport but followed even more rabidly the doings of the ship's swing band, with Pfc. Art Rosenberg, a 407th "hep cat," on the drums. Not to be outdone, the "Oklahoma Ramblers," a quartet of men from this organization, hailing from the great Southwest helped out with some excellent range songs.

A ship's newspaper was published daily to keep the men informed of the happenings of the war torn world, but the main items of interest were the constant rumors that a German submarine wolf-pack was trailing this gigantic convoy of supplies and men. To make the situation still more tense, Naval gunners tested their guns every morning and alerts were held at odd-times throughout the day.

On one occasion, the ship's alarm sounded and simultaneously a great wave of water smashed through the port holes. Luckily the men remained calm and proceeded to their alert stations to find that it was just another practice session and that the open portholes were due to the carelessness of someone on ship.

"Behrshidt Square" was one of the focal points of activity as the gamblers went about cutting each other's throats night after night. Money flowed like wine as the American dollar seemed to lose its value once land was sighted and the ship was within the limits of England's home waters.

Catalina Flying Boats tipped their wings as a gesture of welcome to Europe and British submarine chasers dashed between ships, their men gesticulating wildly with joy. The convoy had crossed the Atlantic safely.



C Battery—Front Row: Ritchie, Van Buren, Duquette, Delgado, Lt. Jenkins, Lt. Von Moschzisker, Lt. Skendrovic, C. Cunningham, Massingill, Sustaita, Voyles, Daher, Matan. Second Row: LaFerriere, Madore, Vasquez, Sylvester, Dellaquilla, Perry, Erba, Thompson, Koth, A. Stewart, DePonte, Brennan, Harper. Third Row: Schmalz, Walkup, Hamel, Fowler, Due, Gosnell, Campbell, Haggard, A. Turner, Atkins, F. Raymond, Pachota, Baker, Thompson, Tyburski, Bizzarro, Marino. Fourth Row: Burns, DeCarlo, Swift, J. Turner, Wittenberger, Bavis, Schwarz, DiGioia, DeLieto, P. Ortiz, Sanchez, Farmer, Shepard, DeNicola, Price.



C Battery—Kneeling: Nathan, Cooper, Bizzarro, Bashore. First Row: Thornton, Roberts, Woodworth, Baird, Thomas, Capt. Burt, Ricci, Latonie, Como, Cope, Moyer, Johnson, Grabeel, Atencio. Second Row: Marino, W. Stewart, Adamaitis, Dubuque, Lurie, Hessinger, Petrowski, Gardner, Neeley, Durbois. Third Row: Powers, Chapman, Thurman, Patchin, McBride, Matthews, M. Ortiz, Ullom, Larsen, Vascillonis. Fourth Row: Sanders, M. Smith, Cutts, Merkle, Parker, Barletta, Clark, Faulkner, Gold, Jacobelis, LaBelle, Coslo. Last Row: Merchant, Mazzone, Russo, Moffitt, Kacmar, Franco, Carlson, Rapini, Crowley, Devana, Powelski, Snyder, Nelson, Clevenger.

We docked on 11 March 1944 at Liverpool, and Lt. Col. Coles led the Battalion from the boat onto foreign soil for the first time. A train was waiting some quarter of a mile from the ship and all personal equipment, including a duffle bag, muzette bag and blanket roll, and our M1s had to be carried to it.

The Battalion received its orders, and the train slowly moved forward through the Liverpool dock area—destination unknown to almost everyone.

The British guide books that had been issued to all personnel entering the Islands were immediately pressed into service while men hurriedly scanned the countryside in an effort to determine their route of travel.

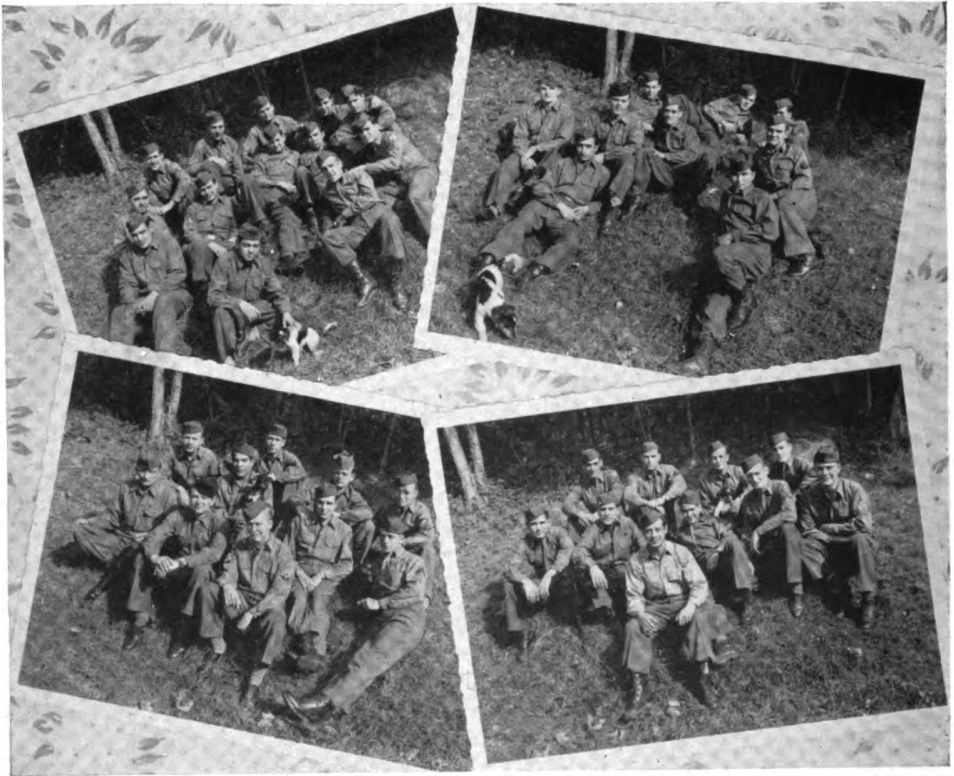
The train was obviously working its way Southward past the beautiful country settings of this section of Great Britain. The roads and fields were crammed full of Allied equipment of all sorts—tanks, jeeps, trucks of all dimensions and sizes, heavy field artillery guns, landing barges, and hundreds of thousands of other smaller items, too numerous to mention. And the British had their share also. As far as the eye could see, as far as the fields and country roads ran, equipment—Allied materiel of war literally littered this small, but well defended island. The artistic job of camouflage further impressed us. Jeeps didn't appear to be jeeps—trucks resembled knolls—and the tanks appeared to have no shape whatsoever.

If never before, now we knew some of the problems of modern warfare. For here was a nation, cramped into the living space of an area half the size of Texas, which had fought on valiantly, alone, as the last democratic stronghold in Europe. Although during the four months preceding our arrival, the Allies had definitely gained control of the air, the evidences of brutal Nazi bombings lay before us. Some cities were completely destroyed, others had a housing problem after their civilian dwellings had been turned to ashes by incendiaries and still more retained little means of communication

with the outside world. Coventry had been blasted from the very face of the earth—Bristol was badly damaged—London was still undergoing nightly attacks by slowly diminishing numbers of German aircraft—Southampton had been hit hard but was still functioning as a possible outlet of shipping for the assault on the French beaches—Scapa Flow Naval Base had been hit hard and submarines were attempting to pull sneak attacks on various capital ships which lay at anchor—Dover was subjected to continual exchange of long range artillery fire. Yes, we knew that Great Britain was at war.

But now the train was slowing down and finally drew to a stop at Crickhowell Railroad Station, Wales—and we were informed that our new abode would be Camp Dan-Y Park, Brecknockshire, Wales. Our advance detachment met us at the station. It had arranged for our billets and had started drawing supplies and materiel on 13 March 1944. Upon submitting our date of arrival communication to Headquarters in London, we were assigned to ETOUSA (European Theater of Operations, United States Army), and attached to the 113th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group, commanded by Colonel Wolfe.

Settling down at Dan-Y Park was a simple process. The camp had just been finished and we were the first occupants. A Battalion mess hall was set up for the first time in the organization's history but the camp guard detail was handled by a different Battery daily.



(Upper Left) D Battery Gun Crew 2—First Row: Hamilton, D'Andrea, Nievera. Second Row: Castiglione, Havelin, Campbell, Hale, Mandrell. Third Row: Gaudette, Matts, Drake, Sobczak, Hurst.

(Upper Right) D Battery Gun Crew 1—First Row: Forlano, Killian. Second Row: Covell, Willis, Gagnon, Wyckoff. Third Row: Harrison, Tarantino, Pallas.

(Lower Left) D Battery Gun Crew 3—Front Row: Liss, J. White, Wierzbicki, Snow, Reynolds. Second Row: Krenek, Cordova, Butler, Harrell, Mathurin.

(Lower Right) D Battery Gun Crew 4—In Front: Aframe. Second Row: Yzzi, Civitello, Neveu, Thomas, Amburgey. Third Row: Lajoie, Larson, L. Smith, Goodheart.

Equipment began to arrive. A high incidence of childhood diseases, measles, mumps, and scarlet fever forced many Battery quarantines and also led to the hospitalization of some stricken more seriously. On 16 March 1944, our Battalion Commander was called to Headquarters 55th AAA Brigade at Moore Park and to the AA Command in London. His trip lasted but two days and upon his return preparations were made for a reconnaissance of proposed positions near Maidstone. This party of the gun battery commanders, the executive Officer and Col. Coles, departed on 21 March and on 24 March we received orders for five Officers and twelve enlisted men to leave for Radar school at Camp Blandford, near Bournemouth.

The Battalion's newly formed Special Service Section got things rolling by staging a very successful stage hit, "Shellzapoppin," starring Pvt. Jimmy Berger as Master of Ceremonies and Master Sergeant Bob Gianelli. A small six piece band, a dance team, Privates Ben Criscuola and Jimmy Joyce, a novelty act with Al Sagnella playing the spoons and Mike Frasca accompanying him on the clarinet helped enliven the 90-minute variety show.

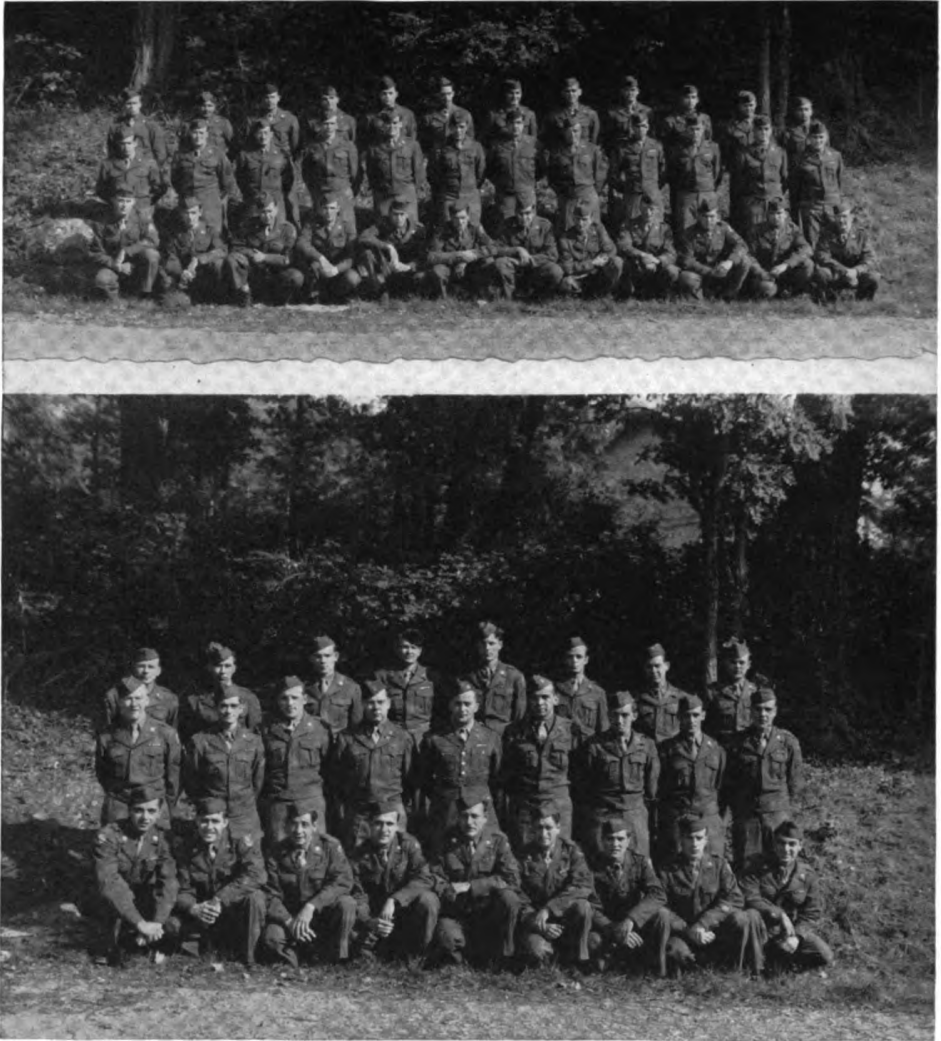
A softball league was started and nightly movies provided other means of recreation. On 27 March 1944, the restriction, which had kept everyone within the post area, was lifted and twenty-four hour passes were authorized to the cities of Crickhowell, Ebbw Vale and, in some cases, to Newport and Cardiff. The very next day our equipment arrived from the States and for the first time since we landed at Liverpool we were ready to assume an active position in the defense of the British Isles.

We didn't relax for long.

On 15 April 1944 we moved to Camp Tonfanau, an anti-aircraft firing point for British and American ack-ack units, in two serials. Something was obviously "in the air" as we lowered our guns on the sandy beaches of Northern England. Everyone seemed to sense that the invasion of the continent was approaching rapidly and when our assignment orders to the First United States Army, commanded by General Courtney Hodges were received, it seemed quite likely that we would be among the first to hit Hitler's European stronghold.



D Battery—First Row: Thomas, P. Campbell, Speas, Wyckoff, Brown, Delette, Arthur, Carentino, Powell. Second Row: D'Andrea, Castiglione, Forlano, Snow, Cordova, B. Smith, Sheridan, Wickline, Mills. Third Row: Yzzi, Waite, Parshal, Russell, Drake, Stewart, Schenkel, Hammond.



(Top) D Battery—Front Row: Amburgey, Quadrino, Lanning, Parshal, Butler, Baker, Hamilton, Liss, Reynolds, Kline, Killian, Koncevich. Second Row: Neveu, Lorenson, Elkin, Heathington, Mandrell, Sobczak, Zekos, Mathurin, Pallas, Lawlor, Rogers. Third Row: Libby, Puia, Willis, Covell, Younger, Boucher, Moffitt, O'Neil, Shaw, Thibodeau, Havelin, Vojtko.
 (Bottom) First Row: Rifkin, Gaudette, Porto, Gagliardi, McCune, Albaugh, Civitello, Goodheart, Velardi. Second Row: Wierzbicki, Gagnon, Nievera, Lt. Hughes, Capt. Blose, Lt. Fisher, Dragone, Lajoie, Matts. Third Row: Krenek, Hale, Watson, J. White, Hurst, L. Smith, Harrison, Harrell.

Rumors spread that we were scheduled to land during the first days of the attack but these were quickly dispelled when Major Ernest Gustafson returned from an urgent trip to London with the information that we had been relieved of our assignment to the First Army.

The firing at Tonfanau was none too accurate on the first day out but the gun crewmen slowly regained their form and before the last shot was fired had the camp officials pleading that it shoot around the expensive sleeves, and not blast so many to the ground. At this time we did not realize that our guns would not be fired again until we hit the European combat zone.

Tonfanau, although set out in this thinly inhabited section of England and not near any large city or town, did have ample recreational facilities. The British ATS, an organization similar to our Women's Army Corps, were also quartered in a special area of this camp so dances were almost a nightly procedure. ENSA stage shows, one starring the British film star, Leslie Fuller, and movies were also a form of entertainment. In addition, athletic fields were always available.

Shortly after the Batteries had completed their test firing at Camp Tonfanau, the 407th was ordered to protect the air bases around Bottesford, England, where the C 47s and gliders of the Ninth Air Troop Carrier Command were preparing for the invasion of the continent. German aircraft were still making sneak raids on Allied air fields and supply dumps. Although never committing large numbers of the Luftwaffe for any one mission, their night fighter-bombers were sent out in pairs for harassing missions. So we knew upon our arrival that our work was cut out for us. Immediately the guns were dug in and camouflaged and were ready to fire on 3 May 1944. No one was quite certain what was going to happen, but rumors flew that the invasion of the European fortress was not far off.

Tremendous squadrons of transports and gliders kept the air "alive" with planes, and English newspapers continually announced the maneuvers of the air-borne divisions. The war of nerves, the pre-combat propaganda battles, were reaching a climax when Lt. Col. Coles left on 5 May 1944 to confer with the Anti-aircraft Section of ETOUSA.

Upon his return the battalion began preparation for a short overseas movement as he had carried ALERT orders with him from London. Major Gustafson, at that time Battalion Executive Officer, left to personally deliver certain "secret" documents to the Supreme Command.

Lt. Jack Wright was transferred to "A" Battery to replace Lt. George Thompson who had assumed the important position of Battalion Radar Officer. Lt. Hope Powell, Battalion Motor Transportation Officer, departed on 13 May 1944 for Portland, England, to attend a four-day course of instruction on amphibious tactics. The sudden emphasis on secrecy and the increasing pressure brought to bear upon us by higher echelons impressed upon everyone the fact that the biggest show on earth was soon to begin on the shores of Continental Europe. The average G.I., although naturally fearful of the outcome, did want a "grand stand" seat and an opportunity to actively participate in what he hoped would be the battle to end the reign of German tyranny in Europe.

The Special Service Section initiated a policy of evening movies for the gun batteries. The battalion projector, which had been purchased in the United States by the officers, had lain idle since our arrival in the British Isles, but this tactical set-up was ideal for individual battery shows. The program received such a warm reception from the men that there was little room for doubt that the investment was a sound one.

The American Red Cross Clubmobile "New Haven" serviced the Battalion during the week of 15 May. The choice of that particular unit was appropriate because of the fact that a great many men in the Battalion were natives of that Connecticut city and smaller towns in its vicinity. Passes to London for short sight-seeing tours and over night jaunts to nearby Grantham and Nottingham gave the men opportunity for some mental and physical relaxation.

But important orders had been received at Headquarters. A Headquarters Battery radar crew had to be formed as an emergency precaution against possible injury to the skilled battery crewmen, and to keep the extra mount in excellent condition—at all times ready to step in and replace a Battery mount, temporarily out of action. The men were drawn from the batteries, supplemented by two replacements from the reinforcement depots. Under the direction of Master Sergeant Malcolm Latshaw and Lt. Thompson, the

"radar rookies," although totally unfamiliar with gun and gun laying equipment learned quickly and the results evident by the end of the month showed the enterprise to be highly successful.

Second Lieutenant Nathan E. Langstaff was relieved from assignment to the unit and transferred to the Ninth Air Defense Command for duty with the Ninth Air Force. Mr. Brehmer replaced him as adjutant. In a last-minute change, Lt. Robert Lage joined the Battalion as a replacement for the injured Lt. Adams of "B" Battery.

The batteries received many alerts, but the planes never did appear—the warm reception that had been planned for the Luftwaffe pilots never materialized.

Replacements continued to pour in. With the Battalion finally at full strength, the Ninth Air Defense Command issued warning orders to all of its subordinate commands that the possibility of air attacks on Ninth Air Force installations during the early days of June was great. The 407th was placed on a modified "C" alert status on 5 June 1944, the same day that Generals Richardson and Burnell inspected us.

The early morning news broadcasts of 6 June 1944 electrified the world. Somber speaking American and British radio newscasters made just one brief announcement: "General Eisenhower's Headquarters said this morning that American, British, and Canadian troops had successfully landed on the continent of Europe and were fighting, against strong enemy resistance, to form two bridgeheads." That was all. No mention of casualties—no definite location of the armies—no word of inland progress.

Throughout the world, all peace-loving peoples spent the day in churches and synagogues praying for the safe return of their loved ones and a speedy victory in Europe. Meanwhile on the continent, the situation looked black indeed. The British had been forced back and now had their very backs to the sea; the Americans landing on "Omaha" beach had encountered a German division that had been in training for just such an attack, and men on "Utah" beach, although progressing slowly, were forced to dig in in order to protect their exposed flank.

As we made ready to leave the British Isles for more active duty on the green fields of once-gay Normandy, officers and enlisted men, alike, recalled many pleasant memories of our days amongst the English people. Regardless of where we were stationed, Crickhowell, Tonganau, or Nottingham, the same friendly spirit prevailed. At the same time, we were impressed by the indomitable fighting spirit of the British—the same "fight to the last" attitude that Prime Minister Winston Churchill had instilled in the Allied personnel all over the world.

The English had been helpful in other, more important ways. The 49th AAA Brigade, serving on the French beachhead with the American First Army, had adopted the British SOP on mobility and deployment which our Allies had evolved over a period of years. While in England Brigadier General E. W. Timberlake, commanding the "Forty Niners," had reproduced it in the language of American military phraseology and further streamlined and altered it to fit the requirements of the best American procedure, personnel and equipment.

This brigade had opened a training camp at Blandford, England, in order to teach all First Army AAA units these new theories. Shortly before the invasion, a demonstration was held in the camp to show the effectiveness of the mobile training and the deployment of 90 mm and AW battalions. Representatives of both American and British Anti-Aircraft Commands and representatives of the United States Corps and Armies, whose attached units lacked such training, attended and the success of the demonstration helped to bring in a constant flow of "customers" to the training camp during the short time remaining before the Allied invasion.

On 9 June 1944, warning orders were received advising us that the Battalion would move to an embarkation point on or after 11 June 1944. Waterproofing of equipment and final show-down inspections were speeded up as Major Gustafson left to consult with the Transportation Officer of ETOUSA. At 0600, 10 June, we moved into administrative bivouac, thus terminating our tactical stay around the Ninth Troop Carrier Command bases. Although we were constantly on the alert, the Battalion did not have occasion to fire even one round at enemy aircraft.

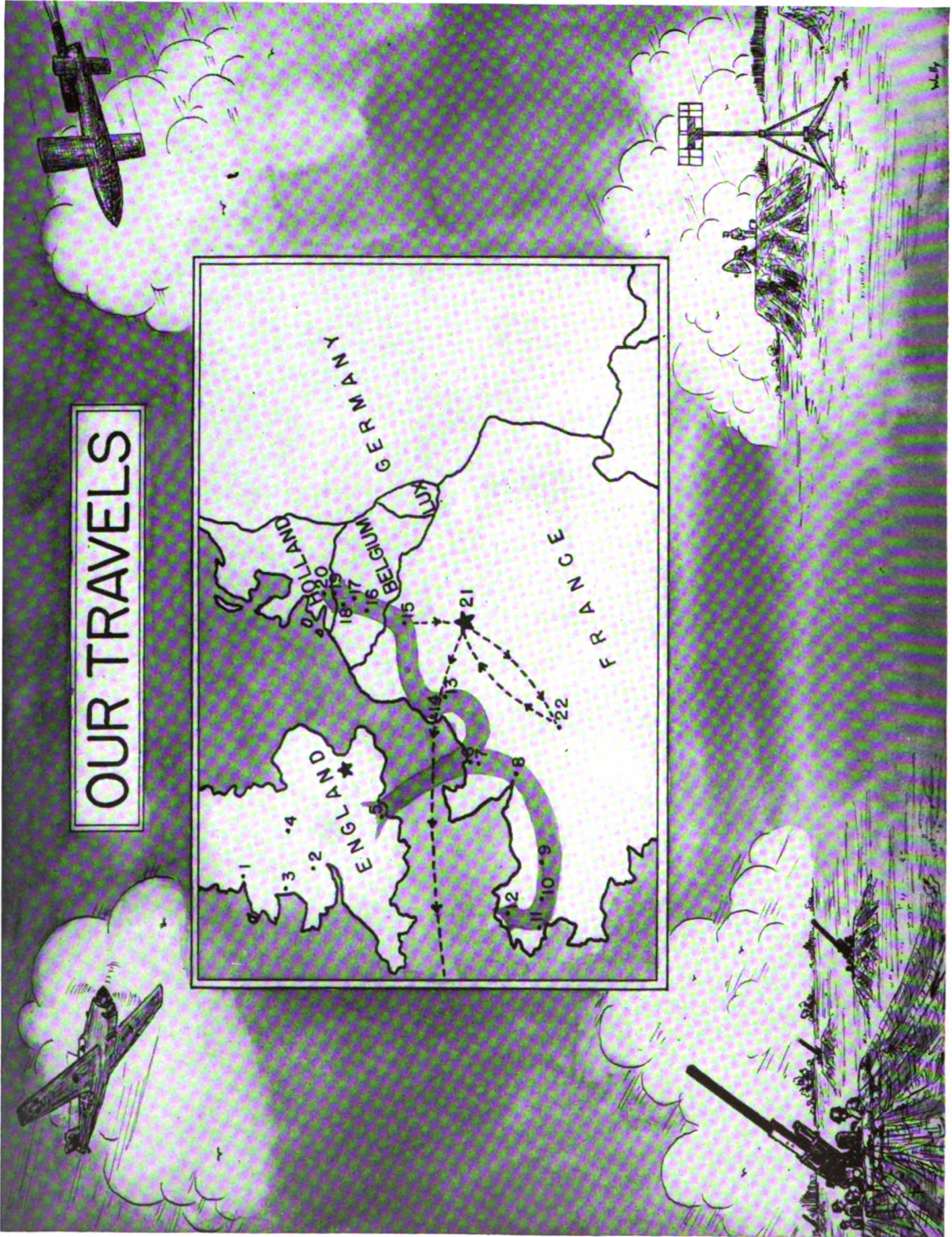
After attending a briefing lecture at 55th Brigade Headquarters, Lt. Col. Coles returned to Air Base 481 to inform the Officers just what our first overseas mission in France was to be. Later that evening, 15 June 1944, all TBA equipment left for Barry, England, and the exodus of the 407th had begun.

For three days vehicles shuttled men and equipment from the home station at Bottesford to the designated concentration area at Lopscombe Camp, Middle Wallop, Hunts. By 1900 hours of the 18th, the movement was completed.

Orders to move to the marshalling area at Ramsey, Nightingale Woods, Hunts were received and complied with on 20 June 1944. The natural tension that existed as we readied ourselves for the most important mission of our still young Army careers kept the men on edge. This area did not help relieve the tension. No one enjoyed the stay in the marshalling area. The ever-increasing activity as units moved in and out and the fact that we were not permitted, for security purposes, to venture off the fenced-in grounds did not serve to lighten the mental pressure. Of course, the few days spent here were busy ones for all of the men.

Everything important to a man entering a strange country, beginning a mechanized war, and at last engaging a hardened, well seasoned enemy was stressed—the possibility of gas attacks as a last desperate move to force us back into the sea; the importance of staying away from marked mines areas, and the fact that secrecy in correspondence and every day talk was absolute necessity.

Yes, from here on, we of the 407th knew that the mock war games were things of the past and that every step forward would be a large stride to our ultimate goal—the complete destruction of the German war machine.



Map Index: 1. Liverpool. 2. Cricchowell. 3. Tonfanau. 4. Bottesford. 5. Southampton. 6. Marie Dumont. 7. Quinville. 8. Avranches. 9. Loudéac. 10. Commana. 11. Brest. 12. Morlaix. 13. Rouen. 14. Le Havre. 15. Cambrai. 16. Bruxelles. 17. Berlaer. 18. Stabroeck. 19. Antwerp. 20. Huijbergen. 21. Paris. 22. Le Mans.

CHAPTER III TO FRANCE — AT LAST

NEWS broadcasts on the morning of 21 June were cheerful for the first time as General Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters released the information that La Haye du Puits had fallen and that American infantrymen were pushing towards the Contentin peninsula, a small strip of land of which Cherbourg is the principal port.

Back in the marshalling area, the men of the 407th were finally given the go-ahead signal to divide into entrucking and marching parties. The gun batteries were ordered to their embarkation point at Southampton but after their arrival at this English Channel harbor were informed that the roughness of the Channel had forced the cancellation of all Allied convoys.

Dejectedly the men returned to Nightingale Woods to "sweat out" another evening. The following day, weather conditions took a turn for the better and at 1550 hours, Major Gustafson led a party of 435 enlisted men and 8 Officers aboard the English ship, HMS "Battle-Axe," enroute to France.

At last, two years of preparation seemed worth while as the 407th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion was on its way to face a most important task. After a rough crossing, the men caught their first glimpse of Normandy. Not knowing just what to expect, many of them let thoughts of home pierce their minds and immediately said a few words of silent prayer. LCIs approached "The Battle-Axe" to remove men as the harbor facilities and floating docks had been almost completely demolished by the previous day's storms. Although these "doughboy" landing crafts raced quickly to shore, many men, for the first time, saw some of the horrors of modern war. Bloating bodies of dead GIs floated by the ships—some under water for so long that their size approximated those of fabulous giants. Sunken ships littered the waters; some blasted by German coastal guns; others still flying American and British flags, purposely destroyed to form a breakwater.

High above, an American Thunderbolt and German ME 109 were engaged in a dog-fight and inland the blast of heavy artillery could clearly be heard. After a long hike to a Transit area at St. Marie du Mont, the men, thoroughly exhausted, attempted to grab a few hours' sleep under the cover of the Normandy hedgerows. With their loaded rifles not more than an arm's reach away and with small arms fire constantly reminding them that they were part of this great war, sleep was impossible. As one man said, "I'll never forget that night. The anti-aircraft and field artillery fire made it look like another Fourth of July."

Lieutenants Fisher and Thompson headed the other marching party, consisting of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and the Medical Detachment aboard the Dutch ship, "Mecklenburg," at Southampton on 23 June 1944. Meanwhile Lt. Col. Coles remained behind to gather last-minute information and to take personal charge of the entrucking detail. After these two units landed in France, the 407th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion became the first semi-mobile 90-millimeter unit in operation on the Continent.

Our first tactical position on the beachhead called for Battery A and Headquarters to assume anti-aircraft defensive positions near Quineville while the other gun units proceeded to lower their guns for the first time on French soil in and around Montebourg, site of one of the first great American tank victories.



(Left) The Antwerp Docks. Constantly Moving Supplies to the Front
 (Right) Digging for the Lucky Survivors of a V-2 Blast

Although we were greeting Nazi aircraft with intensive fire for the first three days of July, our men saw their spirits rise as the Luftwaffe's attacks were not frequent and the German pilots seemed quite hesitant about flying in low for strafing. However the absence of air raids and bombing attacks did not necessarily mean "rest" for our men. The gun batteries had the gruesome task during the first week of the month of collecting the bodies of deceased American paratroopers and enemy dead found around the gun areas. It was quite obvious that the Nazis, caught completely off guard, had made up for their negligence by completely disregarding the Geneva convention and murdering in cold blood wounded American combat troops. All the bodies were transported to the American Military Cemetery at St. Mere Eglise for burial and identification.

Evidence of battles between American paratroopers and the enemy was found everywhere in the abandoned material and fortifications left behind in the heat of combat. The Battalion Supply Section was engaged in the collection of all salvageable materiel.

Battery "C," commanded by Captain Roy L. Burt, became the first battery to enter a claim for the destruction of an enemy aircraft when it reported a kill on the night of 5 July 1944. Although the battery radar tracked the plane till it appeared to hit the ground, a searching party was not able to find the charred wreckage.

The battalion suffered its first casualty on 5 July at 2357 hours when Private Montey Crumpler of Headquarters Battery, while manning a guard outpost, was wounded in the left forearm by an enemy sniper. He was immediately evacuated to a Field Hospital Clearing Station where the wound was diagnosed as painful but not dangerous. Before another week had elapsed, we suffered still another battle casualty when First Sergeant Charles N. Givens of "B" Battery was seriously injured in action by the explosion of an enemy mine, causing him the loss of his right foot three inches above the ankle and leaving serious lacerations of his right hand and side. He, too, was evacuated to a field hospital, and from there, taken to England and the United States.

Air activity in our area was practically nil until 12 July 1944 when the Nazis for the first time sent large squadrons of ME 110s over the beaches in an effort to destroy our ever-increasing supply dumps. One such squadron was engaged by our battalion with unknown results.

It should be emphasized at this point that the strictest rules of camouflage discipline were set and obeyed during our stay in Normandy.

Perhaps the busiest section of the 407th at this time was the Medical Detachment, commanded by Captain George S. Gordon of the Medical Corps, and Captain Alfred E.

Lee of the Dental Corps. Hardly ever did a day or night pass that some injured GI or civilian would not wander in severely wounded by an exploding mine. The Germans, forced back from the beach, did not have time to remove their "Achtung-Minen" warning signs but some were blasted from the poles, thus leaving mined fields unmarked.

First Lieutenant Randolph P. May was promoted to Captain by a Headquarters, ETOUSA, Special Order dated 1 July, and Second Lieutenant Norman A. Skendrovic was assigned and joined the 407th on the 18th day of the month. In still another officer switch, Lieutenant Robert B. Maxwell of "C" Battery was transferred to Headquarters to assume the adjutant's position, thus taking some of the weight off W/O. Raymond Brehmer's overburdened shoulders.

Things were not standing still as far as the war was concerned. The ground troops had pushed the Germans from Cherbourg late in June and now were preparing for a final attack on embattled St. Lo, the last German bastion in Normandy, and the key point to a quick allied advance. As July wore on, the enemy's ability to sustain an air-raid ceased and by the end of the month an attack was almost considered an improbability.

The 407th had defended Utah beach from 28 June 1944 to 24 July 1944 and was assigned to the First US Army, 11th AAA Group and 49th AAA Brigade and finally to the 26th and 24th AAA Groups. A total of 54 targets had been fired upon and a total of 1,113 pounds of 90mm and 528 rounds of 50 caliber fired.

Although several claims were made for this firing, reports never reached our headquarters crediting us with officially blasting a German plane to the ground. However, it will always be rather difficult to convince our radar men, who tracked our targets to the very tree tops, in what appeared to be final death plunges, that we, of the 407th, had not forced some Luftwaffe ace to pay the price of death.

HEADQUARTERS
49TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BRIGADE
APO 230
NEW YORK

"Somewhere in France"
25 July 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation on Performance of Duty as Battalion Commander on Normandy Beachhead.

TO : Lt. Col. C. E. Coles,
Commanding Officer, 407th AAA Gun Bn.
APO 654, United States Army.

The 407th AAA Gun Battalion has been detached from the 49th AAA Brigade. I accept this change of status with sincere regret, but realizing my loss is another commander's gain. I want to wish you good luck, good shooting, and to express my hope that we will again serve together.

I am taking this opportunity to tell you personally, and in black and white, that I am deeply grateful for your loyal support of my policies, and for your aggressive, resourceful, and capable leadership in making our AAA Defense of the Normandy Beachhead impregnable.

You have performed every mission assigned by this Brigade in a superior manner, and must have the inner satisfaction of a job well done when the chips were down.

/s/ E. W. TIMBERLAKE
/t/ E. W. TIMBERLAKE
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Commanding

After one month and thirteen days of constant alert on the all-important Normandy beachhead, the 407th finally went non-operative on 6 August and began a two-day movement by motor transportation to Loudeac, France. Although the entire trip seems quite unimportant when expressed in just one line of narrative writing, it actually signified the first American success, and, at the same time, the first German debacle of the war.

General Omar Bradley's entrenched doughboys had finally broken the deadlock at St. Lo, and re-enforced by General George Patton's fresh troops, had sped to the outskirts of Paris. Colonel Coles, our Battalion Commander, received his orders also. The 407th was relieved of assignment to the 49th AAA Brigade on the beach and attached to the 54th AAA Brigade for duty in Brittany.

Spearheads of the Sixth Armored Division had smashed through the weakened German lines around Avranches and had proceeded to the borders of Brest, Germany's largest submarine den on the Atlantic coast and also the headquarters of one of Germany's most defiant Prussian Generals, Remcke. Following behind the swiftly moving tanks, the 407th, now joined by the 480th AAA AW Battalion and, of course, the 54th Brigade, followed the route of advance of the mechanized units. The smashed, bomb-scarred cities of St. Lo, Coutances, Avranches and many others were added to our travelogues. After a short overnight stop—sleepless, of course—our vehicles were on the road once again advancing along single lane country paths. The nauseating stench of the dead completely obliterated the sweet smell of summer flowers that for many years had permeated the air of this countryside. And the fields were littered with the twisted wreckage of German and American tanks, ample evidence of the ghastly battles before us.

Just before a partially destroyed bridge on the approaches of Dinan, our trucks drew to an abrupt halt. Battery Commanders warned all vehicle commanders to be on constant alert as isolated German pockets were still in the area. Then the 407th crossed the Dinan Bridge—and became the first American unit to enter the city.

Although many of us had heard rumors concerning the wild receptions afforded liberating American forces, not one man in the battalion expected such a greeting as we received. While battered remnants of the Whermacht trudged wearily past, accompanied by a few French sympathizers headed for Prisoner of War enclosures in a rear area, the Free French did everything possible to make this day memorable for all of us.

Wildly gesticulating masses cheered our every move. French girls rushed up to kiss the American soldiers while others hurled confetti and flowers from nearby buildings. Some of the older men and women shed tears of joy but still we were wondering whether some bouquet of flowers or some bottle of cognac hurled upon us was not in reality a cleverly devised German grenade.

. . . . And then to Loudéac. We became operative on 7 August and simultaneously it was announced that we were attached to the Third United States Army. Headquarters, "A" and "D" batteries set up their positions around Loudéac while "B" Battery lowered its guns near Gouarec and "C" Battery was situated at the small town of Mur de Bretagne.

Our stay in this area was destined to be a short one. Not even a day had passed before a bedraggled German youth of Russian descent, purportedly forced into a German uniform when his nation was overrun, was marched into the "D" Battery area by FFI men. The following day five "C" Battery men, Sgt. Bizzarro, Sgt. Atkins, Cpl. Petrowski, Pfc. Vaicilionis, Pfc. Matan, brought in three more prisoners.

An announcement from Battalion Headquarters warned all personnel that one enlisted man had been burned in the mouth just the evening before by "doctored" cider. Needless to say, after just two days at Loudéac, everyone was aware of the necessity to be constantly on the alert. On 9 August a German First Lieutenant attempted a sneak raid on "C" Battery's position but Pvt. Reiter shot and wounded him in the leg. The officer, one

of Hitler's élite SS men, was actually a walking arsenal as he was carrying a burp gun, four potato mashers, a knife and pistol—more than enough to completely destroy our position if he had passed the guards undetected. But he didn't.

After Captain Gordon had administered first aid, the captured officer was sent to Brigade Headquarters. Later that day two British and one French paratrooper officers were apprehended in the same area and likewise taken to Brigade Headquarters when they expressed a request to be taken to the Third United States Army. At dusk an excited messenger from the 19th AAA Group advised that hostile Tiger tanks, bypassed by the Third Army in their swift advance, were located near our Battalion's area. Enemy planes had dropped supplies to them on the night of August 8-9 so an attack was expected. Our ninety millimeters were lowered for field fire and guard posts were doubled but the tanks never reached our positions. Even the great German counter offensive launched on this day was stopped—and hurled back—some fifteen miles from Avranches.

On 10 August, "C" Battery brought in two prisoners and "D" Battery men escorted in some six more. Three days later Major Gustafson, accompanied by Warrant Officer Junior Grade Guarneri, made a two-day reconnaissance of possible routes to Brest, France.

However move orders still did not arrive. The infantrymen of the Second and Twenty-Ninth Divisions were encountering strong opposition outside of the port and the necessary direct fire position for 90 mm guns had not as yet been taken. Rifle fire was even heard in the Hq Battery area the evening of 19 August but Captain Howard A. Whittum's famous "goon platoon"—a group of men formed and trained in infantry tactics—investigated and found nothing.

Finally, on 22 August, the Battalion became inoperative and by the 24th had moved to the area surrounding Commana. Although our two-week stay at Loudéac had been an exciting and tiring one, it also provided a few pleasant memories—the friendliness of the French civilians who offered us eggs, fresh fruit and vegetables, and different liquors; the spirit of organized underground forces which had been fighting for four long years in the hills of Brittany and waiting for the day they could return to their homes and loved ones; the grand reception given the Anti-Aircraft men by the mayor of Loudéac and above all the fine climatic conditions which permitted daily trips to nearby swimming holes. Yes, indeed, Loudéac will be remembered by the men of the 407th for many years to come!

Commana was to be our next stop. Actually just a "time out" until our field artillery positions were captured by American doughboys. This was completed on 29 August and the 407th, supplied with a new type ammunition specially suited for fire at ground targets occupied positions near Brest. Headquarters, "A," "C," and "D" Batteries selected indirect fire positions at Plabennec while "B" Battery proceeded to front line positions at Plougastel.

It is only fitting that, at this point, we interrupt our Battalion history to recount the bizarre experiences of the "B" Battery men during the following forty-eight hours.

Battery "B" was attached to the 174th Field Artillery Group operating in the Plougastel area and at 1600 hours on 29 August the Battery Commander, Captain Edward T. Curran, reported to Colonel Krueger and was further attached to the 561st Field Artillery Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Neely, commanding. Within the following twenty-four hours this Battery moved four times and completely dug in three separate positions.

It was while at their third position that "B" Battery was subjected to enemy counter battery. Their area was a direct fire position chosen by the Commanding General, VIII Corps Artillery, and occupied on his order in full view of enemy guns some 3,000 yards across the river. Due to the construction of our ninety-millimeter mounts we could not take advantage of the hedgerow concealment that had featured the front line fighting

since the early minutes of the invasion and which is standard operating procedure for field artillery pieces. Instead we were forced to set our guns down in the middle of a sloping field that lay like an open stage before the enemy. The men calmly dug in the guns under the constant surveillance of Nazi observation posts, despite the fact that a few field artillery officers who were present admitted they were going to return to the headquarters before the enemy began blazing away.

While the fourth gun was being moved into its revetment, the other three began registering on direct fire targets across the river. The first round apparently destroyed a German barracks and the next seven were air bursts directly over enemy gun emplacements.

At this point the Germans opened up with a withering stream of lead at our exposed position and the Battery was forced to take cover in the revetments. When the fire grew more intense and more accurate, the men were ordered to disperse and take cover among the hedgerows in surrounding fields. At dusk the enemy guns became silent. Immediately the Battery returned, went into march order and towed its equipment to a sheltered road nearby.

Some fifty 88 shells landed in the Battery area causing the complete destruction of the Command Post, slight damage to one of the guns and negligible damage to a machine gun post. Six men suffered light, superficial wounds and bruises while others were thanking God that they were still alive. Many stories came out of this shelling, our real initiation to German field artillery fire.

Captain Randolph May and Colonel Coles visited the area early in the day and were invited to stay for a steak dinner by Captain Curran. Captain May had to turn down the invitation because of duties at the Battalion area, a few miles to the rear, but the Colonel elected to stay. After the German shelling had destroyed the Command Post and the men had scattered, the Colonel eased the men's mind considerably. Remaining calm, he timed the shells, dashing from one fox hole to another between bursts. Other men followed suit and shortly a considerable number found safety in a nearby field.

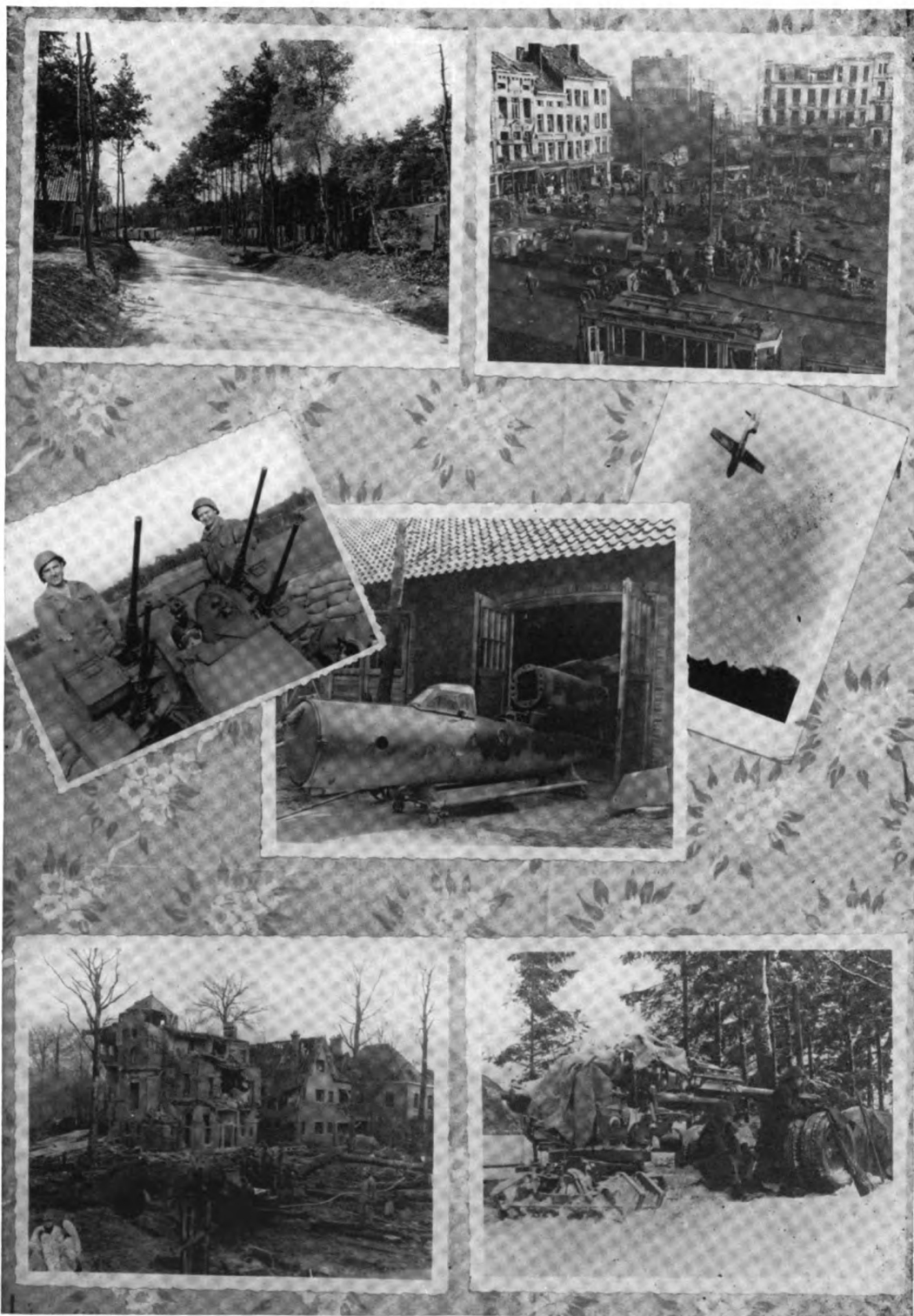
Others tell of Captain Curran's blouse which was hanging on a tree near the Command Post. A direct hit completely demolished the tree but the blouse fell to the ground unmarked.

And then there were other tales, all true—too numerous to mention.

Because of this counter battery, "B" Battery moved to its fourth position. This was an indirect fire position so the unit remained there for the remaining days of the Brest operation.

It was here that the 407th Provisional Battalion began to operate, commanded by our Executive Officer, Major Gustafson. Captain Fred Shea and four enlisted men from the operations section proceeded to the Plougastel area to act as the headquarters for all detached units under the 174th Field Artillery Group.

"B" Battery still had one unsolved problem—how to regain the ammunition left at their blasted position. Four prime movers and two 2½ ton trucks were sent with gun crews back to their shelled emplacements to recover the ammo. Just as the loading of the trucks was being completed, the enemy opened up with direct fire that was still more intense than the day previous. Despite the heavy barrage, the men proceeded to drive the ammunition-laden trucks out of the position to comparative safety. During all this time they were under continual observation and fire of the Germans who managed to score some shrapnel hits on the trucks and inflict a minor injury on one man. For their gallantry above and beyond the call of duty the six drivers were recommended for Silver Stars.



(Top Left) The trains move on. Supplies from Antwerp to the Ninth Army front.
 (Top Right) A buzz bomb hit near the Antwerp railroad terminal.
 (Center Left) Our M-51 mount ready for action.
 (Center) A partly dismantled German V-5, a piloted buzz bomb that was never put to use.
 (Center Right) Diving for the kill.
 (Bottom Left) Another German missile of death misaimed. Civilian death toll mounts.
 (Bottom Right) A 90-millimeter on field artillery duty.

Throughout the period of its attachment to the VIII Corps, Battery B fired 42 missions from an indirect fire position and expended 747 rounds. Of the 42 missions, 25 were of the harassing type, covering a large area of enemy installations. At approximately 0300 on 1 September, the area around the 174th FA Group was subjected to a heavy barrage from enemy rocket guns. "B" Battery fired 40 rounds in two minutes at this enemy installation and the rocket guns were silenced. Later the same day the Battery opened fire on two ships in the harbor. Just 169 rounds were expended before observation posts reported their destruction. Other missions were given us, intended more for the harassing effect than for any damage we might do to the heavily fortified pillboxes.

In addition to the direct fire counter battery, "B" Battery was subjected to infrequent shell fire as the enemy harassed the entire peninsula upon which we were located. One of these shells burst directly over a "B" Battery machine gun at approximately 0800 on 3 September. The machine gunner, Pfc. James DePino, one of the battalion's finest soldiers, was killed instantly by fragments. Our total casualties for the operation were: one man killed in action and seven men wounded.

Many lessons were learned from this strange quirk of war. A separate AA Battery in use as a Field Artillery unit was definitely new. Despite the fact that the Battery did not have the necessary transportation and that it was placed erringly in a direct fire position, there is little doubt that when properly employed and fully exploited the 90-mm gun can prove to be a very effective Field Artillery weapon.

Back at the Battalion Area, the other four Batteries were performing the normal field artillery duties. Fortunately they required few men on the guns and, of course, no range equipment. Although we fired day and night there was no counter fire.

We were at Brest from 29 August to 5 September. There are no figures available covering our firing expenditures for the entire period but in one day, 2 September, Battery "B" fired 480 rounds at such targets as bridges, convoys, barracks, troop concentrations and fortified strong points. Batteries "A," "C," and "D" in the rear area completely used up their allocation of 476 rounds on 3 September, preparatory to the movement of the battalion to Morlaix, France. Technician Fifth Grade Ernest A. Gallant and Private Eulojio G. Rubio were awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received during the Brest action. Both men remained for duty.

Morlaix, an important inland port on the Northern edge of the peninsula, was our next stop. We were attached to the 108th AAA Group under the 54th AAA Brigade as AAA defense for the railroad bridge and port facilities. Our machine guns were posted on the viaduct overlooking the town while the 480th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion scattered its 40-mm guns along the canal and throughout the hilly surrounding area.

Once again the skies were free of German aircraft. Bomber group after bomber group of B 17 Flying Fortresses passed over our area headed for Brest in an attempt to blast the Germans from their underground, steel re-enforced pill boxes. With the tension definitely off, the men of the 407th looked forward to entertainment. So the Special Service Section went to work. Red Cross Clubmobiles visited our area and Herb Shriner, one of this country's leading young comedians, led an all G.I. stage show which helped enliven one evening. Then the Battalion's stage production, "G. I. Mess," was reorganized with Cliff Kent, Russ Morgan's male singer, and Al Slevins, Gene Krupa's prewar pianist, added to the cast. Once again our popular Sergeant Major, Bob Gianelli and Private Ben Criscuola acted as masters of ceremony. Movies were shown every evening at the battery gun sites and an informal softball league was opened.

Passes to Morlaix were issued daily. Some men were fortunate enough to make trips to other towns in the area such as St. Brieuc and St. Malo while a scattered few took this opportunity to pick up some much needed rest and relaxation. On 7 September,

First Lieutenant Jack W. Wright, one of the 407th's original officers and, incidentally, one of the most popular, was evacuated to the United Kingdom because of a knee injury sustained in 1943 while at Camp Haan, California.

On 10 October 1944 our rest period came to an abrupt end. Lt. Col. Coles, accompanied by the Battery Commanders, left for Le Havre, France, for reconnaissance of new positions. The Battalion set out at 0800 hours on the 11th, Le Havre bound.

The individual Battery columns proceeded at half-hour intervals down through St. Brieu, Phelan le Petit, and once again—this time unnoticed—into now gay, frolicking Dinan. The long bridge, that just a few months before had been blasted to the valley floor far below, was repaired by American engineers and was an important segment in the extended Normandy-Brittany supply chain. Hugging the water's edge, we came to Pontorson and Avranches before a short halt was called in the vicinity of Villedieu. Then on the road once again into the blasted, shell torn, war stricken towns where General Omar Bradley had trapped the entire Nazi Army retreating from Normandy—The Falaise Gap.

Perhaps the most eye-opening event of the entire trip was the horrible sight which greeted us as we entered Villers Bocage, a small town just a few miles from Caen. It is quite simple at times to describe the horrors of modern warfare, but no words in our most complete dictionaries could amply describe Villers Bocage. For, in cold fact, this town was no more. Where once had stood a prosperous, quite modern French town, there now lay a crumbled mass of rock and rubble.

It was quite obvious to all that the British and Canadian forces in this area had met with strong resistance and had found the Germans vulnerable to just one form of attack—intensive field artillery fire. After three months on the Caen bridgehead, the armies of Field Marshal Montgomery had succeeded in breaking through, but the cost had been heavy. Not only did British and Canadian graves litter the roadside but entire French towns, such as Villers Bocage, had been blasted from the very face of the earth.

At 1800 hours the convoys began to reach the predetermined destination, a large field suitable for an overnight stop, just a few miles from Caen. Early the next morning we were off again. There was not a man in any one of the vehicles who was not anxious to see the remains of Caen. To most of us it was just a small town where the British had encountered exceedingly strong opposition. Some of us openly questioned the strength of the English-Canadian combination as radio broadcasts over the British Broadcasting System continually announced that Caen was changing hands. For some time the American left flank was held back so that it would not be made vulnerable to attack from the North. But then Montgomery and Crerar led their forces in a victorious march from the beachhead. As we slowly proceeded along the débris littered roads, we noticed the terrific blasting and the multiple evidences of intense small arms fire. Civilians, who had fled when the initial assaults were taken, came streaming back to find their small dwellings just twisted masses of steel and broken rock. Churchill and Mark IV tanks, some blasted beyond recognition, stood idle along the roads—mute evidence of what had come before us. Once past Caen our vehicles picked up speed and raced unhaltingly toward the Seine River.

A few days behind the British advance, we found Rouen in rather poor condition. The Germans, in full retreat, had stopped long enough to destroy all the bridges over the river and the English engineers had only succeeded in rebuilding one span. Tremendous amounts of abandoned German guns, trucks and tanks remained on the Southern side of the river. Some men hazarded the guess that the bridges were not blown up by the Nazis but demolished by British low level bombing attacks. Others thought that there was a general mixup in orders and that some German forces were cut off when the bridges

were destroyed too soon. There was no evidence of battle as we approached our positions just short of Le Havre.

While at Le Havre the men of the 407th found themselves free of fear as the speedy advance had made the port a rear area. However the living conditions were never worse as the fall rainy season made bivouac areas resemble mammoth mud holes. The 114th AAA Group, to which we were attached upon our arrival, ordered the Battalion to positions surrounding Montivilliers. There was absolutely no enemy activity during our fifteen days at Le Havre but most of us remember the antagonistic attitude of the French population. Prior to our entrance into Le Havre, a large fleet of heavy bombers had completely leveled the area near the docks and a few misdirected bombs had accidentally hit the residential districts.

As we made ready to leave for Antwerp, Belgium, the Franco-American relationships had improved and the GI Don Juans, because of their friendliness and good will, had endeared themselves to our European friends.

Finally on 27 October the trucking company arrived and on the following day the unit closed station at Le Havre, and spent an over-night stop at Cambrai, France, enroute to Antwerp, Belgium.

CHAPTER IV

BELGIUM, HOLLAND, AND PEACE

THE 29th of October marked our entry into another strange nation. As we passed the border at Valenciennes an immediate change took place. There, much to our surprise, appeared a country comparable to the good ol' USA. The cities of Mons and Brussels were soon behind us as we raced on to Antwerp, Belgium's largest port and business center. We arrived at our assigned area in the gun belts late in the afternoon. Headquarters Battery with the attached Medics was situated at Berlaar, A and D Batteries occupied fields at Koningshoyckt while B and C were near Heikant. Some rather bad news greeted the men upon arrival when it was announced that Private John F. Czesnowski of Worcester, Massachusetts, one of the most popular men in the organization, had been seriously injured by the accidental discharge of a carbine in the possession of another soldier. The bullet entered the left rear of the skull. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital where his condition was found to be critical.

The battalion was attached to the 21st Army Group and our primary mission was to man an assigned sector in a gun belt with the purpose of engaging, under certain conditions, robot bombs (V-1, "divers") fired over the sector. However, no firing was permitted for the first few days pending completion of communication from AAOR to battery sites.

On 1 November, the Battalion was authorized to engage "diver" targets without waiting for the completion of GOR lines from Group Headquarters. Although we did not know it at the time, the defense of Antwerp against V weapons was to be our most important mission of the war. Since its liberation on 3 September by British forces, the port's populace had labored day and night to prepare the 40 miles of docks for use of Allied shipping. Men and women strolled carefree along the streets and there was a general belief the war would be over by Christmas.

However, on 13 October the first V-1 struck Antwerp. Without delay, two brigades of American anti-aircraft artillery were rushed to the scene.

Little did we realize that the next six months' activities, completely free of personal contact with enemy forces, would provide most of us with the most nerve wracking, heart tingling experiences of our Army lives. For we were to witness the heartless German Buzz Bomb assault on Belgium's leading industrial city. Thousands of civilians were to be killed as an average of twenty-six V-1s and ten V-2s hurtled down daily upon the crowded streets.

Our first month at Berlaar was a difficult one for every man in the Battalion. As is customary when occupying new positions, you must dig in your guns and equipment, sandbag your parapets, tents, radar, etc., and also attempt to make the areas livable. The snow and rain storms turned most of the fields into extra-large mud puddles. However, every Battery was called upon to fire almost constantly at the fast moving targets. On 11 November, Lt. Col. Coles entered the 8th Canadian General Hospital and Major Gustafson assumed temporary command. In an effort to take some of the burden off the overworked line battery men, twelve Headquarters Joes were divided among the other batteries.

Just three days after the Colonel entered the hospital, another officer shift took place as Captain Randolph P. May was relieved of his duty as Battalion S-4 and appointed Battery Commander of "A" Battery. Captain Howard A. Whittum assumed the S-4 duty while Captain James Walmy, Jr., transferred to Headquarters Battery. On 17 November, 1st Lt. Michael Von Moschzisker was assigned to Battery C after his arrival from the 9th Replacement Depot. The firing at divers continued and became more intense. Finally on 22 November when the Battalion engaged five "buzzers," four Category "A" claims were made. The destruction of the V-1s was divided into two distinct categories, "A," when blown up in air, and "B," when crippled and forced to the ground before reaching the city of Antwerp.

On 24 November, Major Ernest W. Gustafson was relieved of assignment to this Battalion and attached unassigned to the 20th Replacement Depot to be placed on detached service with Headquarters United Kingdom Base for duty with the Disarmament and Control Staff. He had completed twenty months of service with the 407th. Captain Leonard B. Logan became acting Executive Officer.

The following figures are available for a three-day period, 28-30 November on targets engaged. Battery "A" claimed 1 Category A and 6 Category B kills. Battery "B" claimed 3 A and 4 B. Battery "C" claimed 4 Category A and 3 Category B while Battery "D" claimed 1 Category A and 5 Category B's.

Early in December the unit was awarded battle credit for participation in the campaigns, Normandy and Northern France, per letters from Headquarters, European Theater of Operations. This, the month of the German counter offensive, provided most of the men with ample opportunity to wonder whether or not, after so many months overseas, they would ever be lucky enough to survive. For not only were German V-Bombs continually overhead but also Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's determined Panzer columns had reversed the tide of battle and were streaming toward Antwerp in an obvious drive to sever the Allied armies and communication lines. The assault against the weakest link in the American line, although prepared for months, came as a surprise to our offensive minded doughboys who suddenly were faced with retreat or annihilation at the hands of superior forces. Messages received by our headquarters on 19 December, just one day after the initial breakthrough, warned that enemy paratroops were being dropped in the 407th sector. Lt. Col. Coles, back in command, alerted the men for possible ground attack and all batteries were notified to prepare 50-caliber machine guns for immediate use.

With affairs in the Communication Zone in a constant turmoil as supplies were hurriedly moved to and from the battle area in an effort to stem the drive, the Germans made the situation more complex by dropping paratroops in strength behind the American lines. General Headquarters reported that enemy agents were approaching the 407th area using captured British, American and civilian clothing and equipment. Of course, passes were cancelled immediately and small arms ammunition was reissued to be carried at all times. Because of our great accuracy record our unit remained in AA firing position while most others in the Antwerp "X" command moved toward the embattled area to assume direct fire field artillery positions around Liege and other large Allied supply dumps.

Another warning that a parachute attack was possible reached us on 21 December and then on Christmas Eve word was received that a very serious airborne attack was in progress against the American front lines. All batteries were warned to be constantly alert. At 1000 hours on 24 December, 1944, the alert was cancelled and preparations were made for a short holiday celebration.



—2183

FLYING BOMBS

WERE BLASTED FROM THE SKY



Assisting the Chaplain, the Special Service Section and two charming Belgian girls made the rounds of the batteries singing appropriate carols. At each position Captain Sprinkle led the men of all faiths in a short prayer. Then we returned to the Berlaar square where the public address system was set up. In a very few minutes a deliriously happy crowd gathered and sang songs into the wee hours of the morning.

A few days later the battalion was relieved from the 45th AAA Group and attached to the 17th AAA Group. Simultaneously the code name was changed from "Blueberry" to "Rancher."

The ground defense of the port of Antwerp was drawn up under plans "A" and "B," wherein infantry companies were formed from the various anti-aircraft troops in the immediate area. Lieutenant Colonel Coles called for volunteers. Practices were held during the last two weeks of the month and newsreel cameramen were dispatched from Paris headquarters to film the transformation of AAA personnel into first rate infantrymen. Most of the battalion's effort during the month of December was devoted to ground defense but our 90-mm barrels did not cool off as forty-three "Flying Bombs" were engaged with the 407th receiving official credit for the destruction of twenty-four (8 Category A and 16 Category B).

It was also at this point in our overseas exploits that the motor pool was called upon to put forth an almost superhuman effort. Sixteen truck drivers were placed on temporary duty, thirteen with the 789th Automatic Weapons Battalion and three with the 126th Gun Battalion, for an indefinite period for the purpose of aiding these battalions as they were put into the line to help check the German offensive. The men departed on 19 December and returned from the "Bulge" on 4 January 1945. The motor pool personnel remaining in the 407th area, although considerably short handed, maintained the transportation facilities so necessary to the efficient functioning of an AAA unit.

The battalion's personnel ushered in the new year with the usual back slapping, wild celebration and prayers for final victory. Our infantry divisions were pressing forward, cracking the German resistance and finally penetrating the Siegfried Wall defenses. The attack by Von Rundstedt had failed and Allied armies, reinforced by fresh troops, had turned the tide of battle for what appeared to be the last time.

On New Year's Day an ME 109 strafed a petrol dump near the "A" Battery area. However a few minutes later, Batteries "B" and "C" contacted battalion headquarters and claimed a category I, destruction by machine gun fire. The German fighter had been hit, was burning badly, and observers did not deem it possible that the plane could return to its base.

There was no let-up in the "diver" action. Time and time again the 407th area was close to disaster but in every instance through good fortune, the dynamite-laden bombs glided past our positions and exploded harmlessly in nearby fields. Finally on 9 January, Private First Class Charles N. Sanifer of Battery "C" was slightly wounded in action by the explosion of a V-1 in the battery area. He suffered slight lacerations of the head, but remained in the Battery for duty.

Two days later, Colonel Coles attended a conference at 50th Brigade in which Colonel Morton of anti-aircraft ordnance and Dr. Reardon, an American scientist, gave details on the construction and employment of new type fuses. Five enlisted replacements were assigned to the battalion from the 9th Replacement Depot and First Lieutenant George F. Weiler joined the battalion and was assigned to Battery "C." At this time, with the battalion at full strength, 1st Lt. Michael Von Moschzisker was relieved of assignment to "C" Battery in order that he might assume the Adjutant's position.

The visual belt of OP's, known as the "Nickle Belt," was re-deployed and manned by enlisted men attached to our unit from the 787th AW Battalion and the 601st Gun Battalion . . . and then inspection after inspection of the gun sites was held. Brigadier General Armstrong, accompanied by Colonel Adams of the 17th Group, viewed the conditions at "A" and "B" Batteries while Col. Coles checked the living conditions at "C" and "D." On 16 January word was received that Brigadier General Richardson, Commanding Officer of the Ninth Air Defense Command, was expected in the Antwerp "X" area shortly. Immediately all batteries worked frantically to improve fortifications and tent areas.

Battery "B" was called upon to make a short move and was allowed twenty four hours to complete work on the new position. Colonel Hennessey of 50th Brigade inspected and found the new site perfect. He officially complimented the men and from that time on Battery "B" of the 407th was considered by Antwerp headquarters the "show" unit. Whenever inspecting teams visited the port area, they would be brought to "B" Battery for a perfect demonstration of a 90-millimeter organization at work.

At 0630 on 18 January, "A" Battery broke a firing record when its expert gunners registered a kill on a "diver" expending only two rounds of HE ammunition. A certificate from IX Air Defense Command Headquarters awarded "B" Battery a Category I claim for an ME 210, shot down during December, 1944 by 90-mm fire. On 19 January First Lieutenant Joseph C. Fimiani joined the 407th and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery with his primary duty, Assistant S-3. He had already seen action with another anti-aircraft unit in Italy and Southern France.

After four days of intense firing, Batteries "B" and "C" picked up with their radar slow moving targets. "C" Battery fired upon one traveling but 60 mph and the pip disappeared from the radar scope. The nature of this mysterious target was unknown. It was at this point in our buzz-bomb experiences that our luck failed to a certain degree. For on 28 January a "diver" landed in the "C" Battery area. Two men were injured. Private Floyd Davis received a concussion, cerebral mild, lacerations of the scalp and abrasions of the left hand. Technician Fifth Grade Robert L. Cutts received multiple abrasions of the nose. After treatment at the Battalion aid station, both men returned to their battery for duty. It was estimated later that if the bomb had not fallen in the center of the guns-machine gun-radar triangle many more men might have been killed and wounded.

Several changes in assignments and duties of officers were directed to go into effect immediately. Captain Curran was appointed Operations Officer while Lieutenant Lorenzini replaced him as "B" Battery Commander. Captain May turned "A" Battery over to Captain Fred Shea so that he might assume to S-2 position. Lieutenants Griffin and Max-

well were transferred to "C" Battery with Lieutenants Fimiani and Weiler moving to "A" Battery. Lieutenant Allen moved from "D" to "B" Battery while Lieutenant Skendrovic was assigned to Battery "D."

February, 1945 was undoubtedly one of the most exciting months of the war. On 23 February, the Allied Armies jumped off in the direction of the Rhine. The Roer and Erft Rivers were crossed and Cologne, Bonn and other Rhineland cities of great strategical importance captured. Back in the Antwerp area, the 407th continued firing at V-1s with increasing success. On the very first day of the month, a "diver" landed 100 yards from "D" Battery but there were no injuries or damage to equipment.

Three months in one position gave the Special Service Section ample time to provide the best entertainment possible. Movies were shown every evening at the Recreation Hall and dances were held weekly. The Battalion basketball team, coached by Pfc. Marty Driend of New Haven, Connecticut, entered the 50th AAA Brigade tournament and immediately defeated the 519 AAA Battalion 47-11. In the semi-finals, the 601st fell before our squad, 44-31. And then in the finals at Mechelen, Lieutenant Colonel Coles watched the 407th quintet trample the 126th AAA Battalion 29-17.

At 1845 hours, 5 February, the 407th was ordered to move. All batteries went out of action at 2300. It seemed almost impossible that we were to leave Berlaar. Many of our men had made close friends, others had met girls whom they wished to marry, and every member of the battalion had thoroughly enjoyed the three months spent in this small Belgian town. Mud caused considerable difficulty in leaving the positions but by 1725 hours, 6 February, the last battery in this shuttle movement was on its way to Stabroeck, a community just north of Antwerp. This sudden decision to move our unit was made when the anti-aircraft defense against buzz bombs coming from the North had proven inadequate.

After arriving at the positions, Lieutenant Colonel Coles called a battery commanders' meeting to discuss firing rules and preparation for fire. AAOR lines to all batteries were in but another difficulty arose when a critical shortage of sand bags was noticed. The battalion welcomed back one of its most popular officers, Lt. Jack Wright, who had been hospitalized in Morlaix, France, during September, 1944.

On 12 February, "B" Battery was inspected by Brig. General Badger and Colonel Russell, preliminary to an inspection by Brig. General Revell-Smith, Commanding General of Anti-Aircraft of the 21st Army Group. After this series of inspections was completed, a commendation was forwarded to Lieutenant Lorenzini from Brigade headquarters. Official papers arrived at the Battalion offices relieving us from attachment to the 17th AAA Group and attaching us to the 30th Group and 56 AAA Brigade.

Private Raymond H. Sheen of "D" Battery was evacuated on 14 February to the 30th General Hospital after accidentally discharging his carbine, fracturing his left ankle. Early the next morning, WOJG Joseph Guarneri, Coach Marty Driend, and nine members of the battalion basketball team departed for Paris to compete in the IX Air Defense Command tournament. The "Driendmen," as the team was called, did not fare too well at the French capital. Although they managed to maintain a slight lead during the first half, they were overcome just before the half time intermission and had to settle for a 40-28 defeat. Back at the battalion area in Stabroeck, orders to move to Holland were being carried out. The Battalion Command Post opened at airfield 79 near Huijbergen, Holland at 0930, 20 February. That afternoon, Private John M. Burns of "A" Battery was wounded in action by shrapnel. However, his injuries were not of a serious nature and he remained with the battalion for duty.

An early afternoon explosion on 24 February rocked the headquarters battery area and resulted in the death of Technician Fourth Grade Marshall J. Sherd and Technician

Fifth Grade James J. Burns Jr. of the Communications Section. The explosion was apparently due to an enemy booby trap set near a well concealed German ammunition dump. The blast was so great that men at work 100 yards away were lifted off their feet and hurled to the ground. After four days of comparative inactivity, the buzz bomb attack gained momentum once again on 28 February. Lt. Col. Coles, Captain Curran, and Captain Shea were called to a gunnery conference at the Century Hotel in Antwerp. Meanwhile an accident occurred in the "D" Battery area where Technician Fifth Grade Vincent Grazulis was shot in the knee by Lieutenant Skendrovic while the officer was cleaning his pistol.

On 8 March, elements of the 9th Armored Division reached the Rhine at Remagen and crossed the railroad bridge at that point. This was an unexpected break but the battle-hardened First Army veterans immediately took advantage of this situation to build up strength on the eastern bank and expand the bridgehead established by the tank units. The last dependent German defensive line had been broken—and with comparative ease. Hitler, in a supreme effort to arouse his people, called for last ditch stands in every hamlet and city. The Supreme Headquarters in Paris decided to capitalize on its bridgehead and expanded in an enormous pincer movement which successfully trapped an entire Nazi Army in the Ruhr pocket.

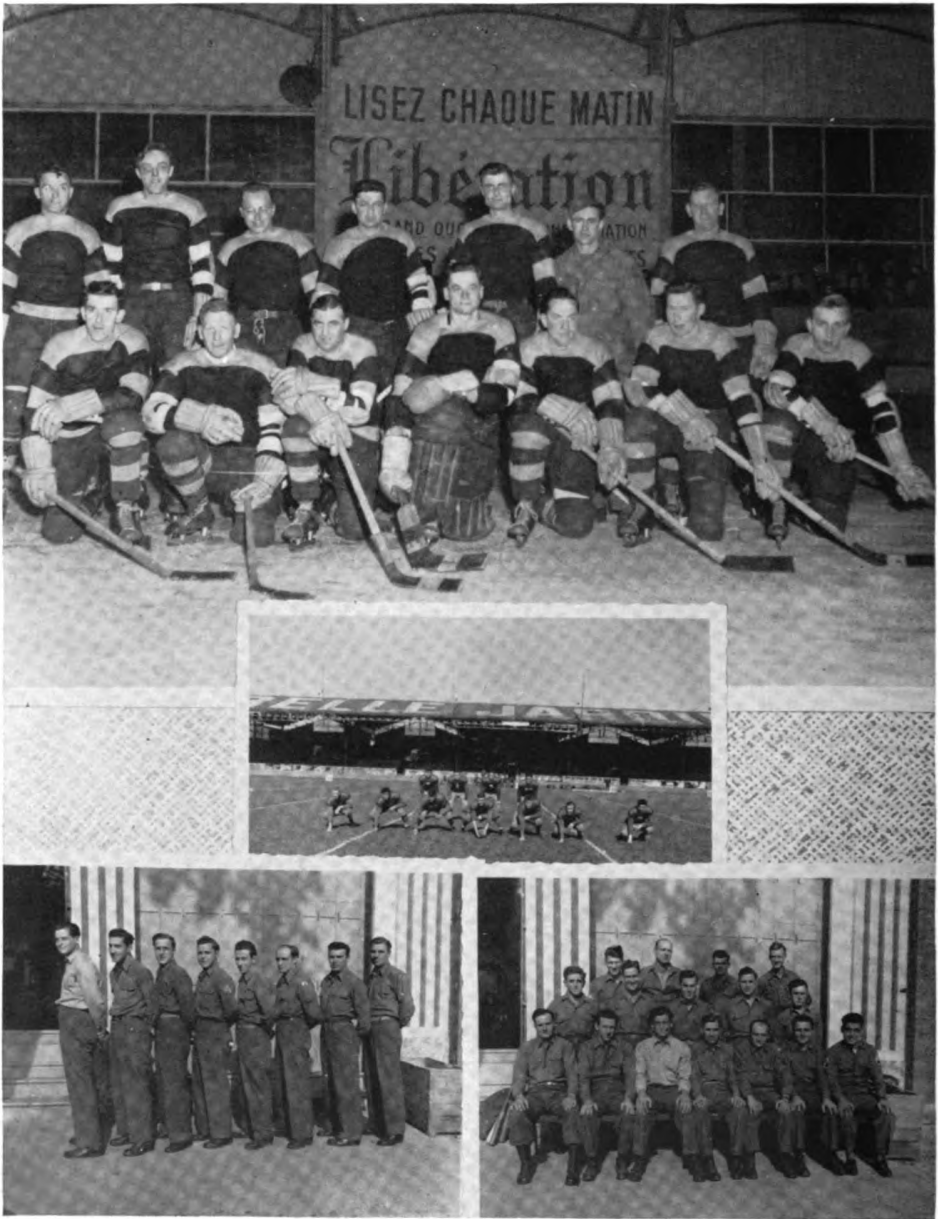
Belgium, Holland, and France, which had been hubs of activity just three months before, now were considered "rear" areas. The English and Canadian forces to the North had pushed to the Maas River and were preparing for the crossing. Our battalion, still firing at buzz-bombs, dispatched a radar and our M51 mounts to the south bank opposite Rotterdam, under the command of Lt. Fairchild. The object, of course, was to determine whether or not the four-fifty calibers could blast the V-1s from the sky. At the 407th area, near Huijbergen, the Special Service Section was preparing for a softball and volleyball season, showing nightly movies, holding dances weekly, and following the progress of the battalion ice hockey team.

Coached by Warrant Officer Ray Brehmer, the sextet faced off against various Canadian units in games played at the Sportspalais in Antwerp. Then the team was invited to play at Paris against the French Olympic Volants. Combining with the only other American ice hockey squad in the European Theater of Operations, they held the fast skating Frenchmen to a 3-3 tie in the first international ice-hockey game since the German occupation. On 28 March, the team closed its season by losing to the Communication Zone sextet, 6-1, thus winding up with six wins, three losses and one tie.

Earlier in the month, "B" Battery was inspected by Major General Otto Lund, Major General Revell-Smith, Brigadier General Badger and all the full Colonels of the Antwerp "X" Command. All the battalion commanders and a representative enlisted man of each unit were present to greet the visiting officers. It was at this time that the battalion welcomed Major Lewis A. Bonifay who was assigned to duty as executive officer. To keep within the allotted table of organization, Captain Roy Burt was relieved as "C" Battery Commander and transferred to the 787th AAA AW Battalion. Captain Curran turned over the S-3 duty to Major Logan and assumed command of "C" Battery.

On 20 March, our M51 machine gun positions were shelled by German 88s. No damage or casualties were reported.

The Stars and Stripes, official newspaper of the American army, continually reported 1,000-plane raids over Germany's industrial centers. Every evening our men would watch squadron after squadron of bombers and fighters based in England, pass overhead. Then, late in the afternoon of 23 March, a B-17, damaged by flak over a target in the Ruhr valley, made an emergency landing at the air base. The nose gunner had been killed but the remaining nine members of the crew were not injured. The men were quartered and contact was made by wireline with the 8th Air Force Headquarters at Brussels. That



(Top) Battalion Ice Hockey Team—Front Row (left to right): LeBlanc, Prentice, Harper, Katz, Brehmer, Gomez, Talancy. Rear Row: Niemiec, Thompson, Mathurin, Frasca, Sampson, Landry, and Cullen. Missing from picture: Matts, DeCarlo.

(Center) A Battery's Football Team.

(Lower Left) Battalion Basketball Team—Left to Right: Katz, Gulino, Gagliardi, Puglisi, DiGioia, Buonome, Schenkel, Coach Marty Driend. Missing from picture: Daley, Walsh, and London.

(Lower Right) Battalion Softball Team—Front Row: Chevrette, DiGioia, Coach Bob Katz, Manager Marty Driend, Coach Joe Buonome, DiCapua, Marinez. Second Row: Scorer Armando Erba, Stewart, Cantieny, Puglisi, Molleur. Third Row: Bashore, Price, Duffy, and Weiss.

evening the enlisted men in the crew attended a 407th EM's dance at Bergen-op-Zoom, and the next day all nine men departed for Brussels in an air force truck on the first leg of their trip back to England.

The 25th of March meant the opening of the long awaited softball and volleyball seasons. In a very auspicious start, Technician Fifth Grade Cassmer Pachota twirled a no hit game against "B" Battery. In the other game played that day, HQ Battery easily defeated "A" Battery. And in Paris, Corporal Mike Frasca lost his second successive split decision in the Red Cross boxing tournament.

As March drew to a close, Colonel Morrill of Ninth Air Defense Command A-1 Section visited the Battalion and discussed personnel problems with Major Bonifay and Lieutenant Von Moschzisker. The German buzz bomb supply seemed to be dwindling. Only an occasional "diver" passed over our area and these were shot down with ease by our gun crews who now were acclimated to the pilotless aircraft's speed and straight course.

News reports announced that the First and Third Armies were swinging north from their eastward movement to reach Marburg and the Ninth Army was battling southward to completely annihilate the 350,000 Germans in the Ruhr pocket. The Allied Armies' advance was so speedy and German strength was diminishing to such a degree, that everyone believed the European war would soon end. This brought about the usual speculation as to just what would happen to the American forces in the ETO. Would we be sent to the Pacific direct to assist in the contemplated invasion of the Japanese home islands, or would the government make some provision for a short furlough at home? The Allied tank units continued to move eastward until the line of the Elbe River was reached. The enemy air force had been grounded when the Red Army severed the transportation lines to the Balkan states.

Buzz bombs were now also a thing of the past. The Battalion devoted itself to athletics and other forms of recreation. On 4 April a retreat formation was conducted on the airfield at which time Major Lewis Bonifay was presented with the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with the defense of Southern England against pilotless aircraft.

The airfield was humming with activity the next day when three P-51 Mustangs made emergency landings on their return from operations against the enemy. One plane turned over, and its pilot was treated by Battalion Surgeon Captain Gordon, for minor injuries. After five months of constant alert, higher headquarters informed Antwerp "X" that the AA battalions were to move elsewhere. Our motor pool was on the road once again moving the various battalions to positions in southern Germany. At our area, Lt. Von Moschzisker and W/O Guarneri were making plans for an extensive Information and Educational school. The softball and volleyball leagues were still in progress and our boxing team walked off with the 50th AAA Brigade tournament as Technician Fifth Grade Rapini, Pfc. Cocca, Pfc. Waite and Pfc. Young won in their respective weight classes. Corporal Mike Frasca, the 407th's best pugilist, was unopposed and Pfc. Forlano lost a close decision.

On 12 April the battalion's personnel was shocked to hear of the death of our President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Two days later, Chaplain Sprinkle in a solemn ceremony addressed the battalion staff and a platoon from each battery at a special formation to mourn the death. European newspapers headlined the startling news and immediately all freedom loving nations lowered their flags to half mast in respect to one of America's greatest patriots.

Orders transferring Technician Fourth Grade Kelly and Corporals Bishop and Hunter along with First Sergeant Nesbitt to infantry officer candidate school came through on 15 April.



(Left) Some of our men returned to the United States aboard this ship, the S. S. General Macrae.

(Right) Post-hostilities duty at Prisoner of War Camp, LeMans, France.

On 20 April 1945, the 407th assumed a non-operational status. During our operational period from 1 November 1944 to 19 April 1945 the 407th engaged seven hundred and eighty-seven pilotless aircraft, destroyed one hundred and thirty-four in the air and brought down two hundred and sixty-two others. One enemy airplane, an ME 210, was also officially credited to us. It is interesting to note that our total percentage of kills on pilotless aircraft was 50.3%, one of the best in the Antwerp "X" Command. On 21 April, Brigadier General Armstrong made a farewell visit to our headquarters and congratulated the battalion commander, staff and all battery commanders on the excellence of our performance and discussed possible future assignments.

And then came the welcome news that troops of the First Army had linked up with Russian forces of the First Ukrainian Army on 27 April at Torgau, on the Elbe River. The end was clearly in view.

It was not long before other portions of Germany gave themselves up to the Allies, unconditionally. The German dream of power was dispelled and at 2300 hours, 8 May 1945, hostilities in the European Theater of Operations were officially terminated.

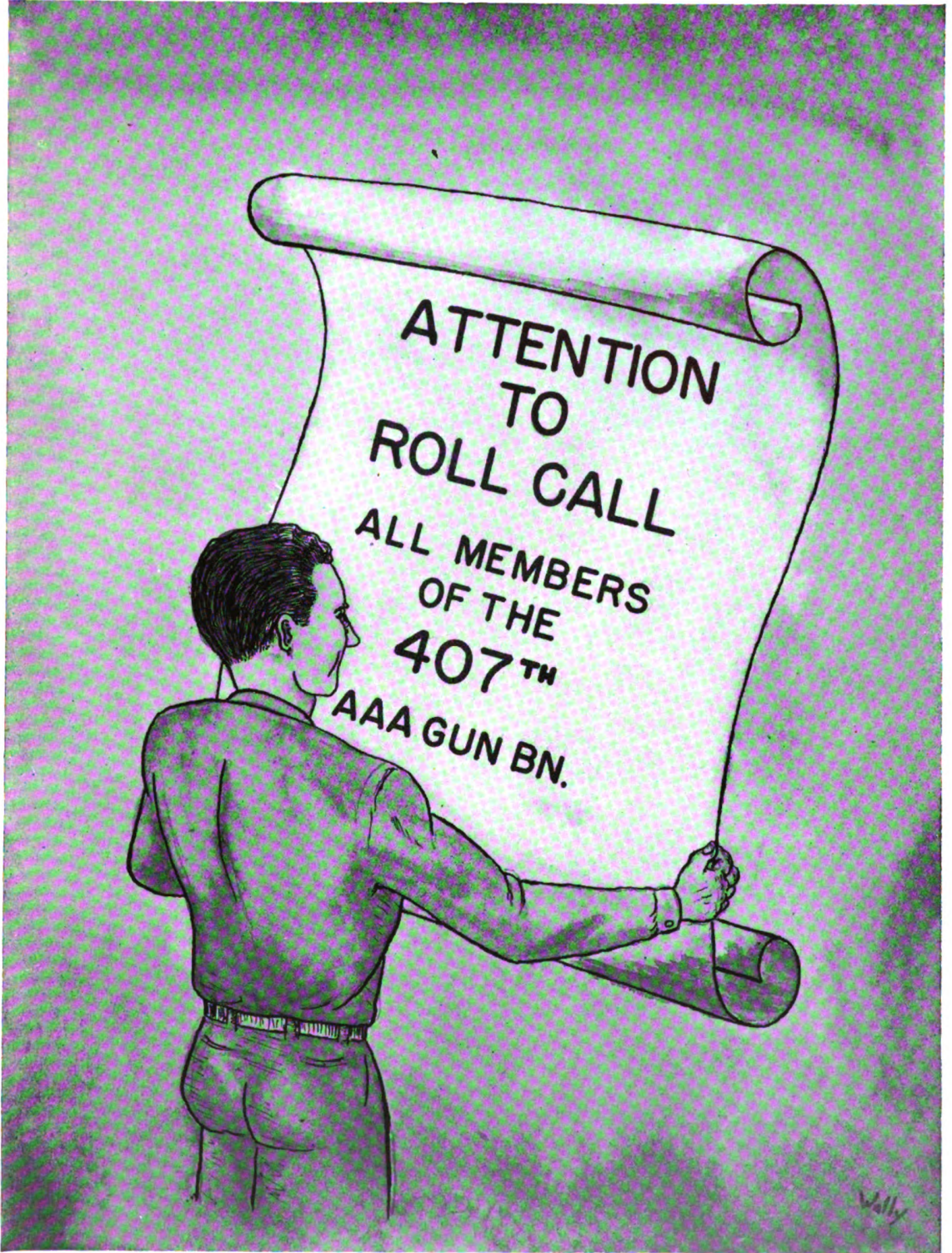
The work of war over, the 407th was called upon during peace in Europe to perform the arduous duties of Prisoner of War camp guards. The battalion, traveling for the last time intact with all of its original personnel still available for duty, made the long trip from Bergen-op-Zoom, Holland, to LeMans, France. We had the opportunity to pass through Antwerp, Brussels, Cambrai, and Paris and to fully realize that very little reconstruction work had been accomplished. While at LeMans, the Special Service Section opened a rest camp in Paris for 407th personnel. Just a few months later, after the Japanese had been atomized and the Pacific war was terminated, our high point personnel were transferred to other units heading home.

The rest of the battalion was sent to Military Police school at Fontainebleau, a small summer resort town just a few miles from the French capital. After an intensive ten-day course was completed, we were ready for MP duty in the Paris area. Then the disintegration of the 407th really began. Finally, on November 20, 1945, the main body of troops, three hundred strong, with points ranging from 66-69, were transferred to the 171st Combat Engineer Battalion for shipment home—and discharge.

It is at this point that we bring the "History of the 407th Anti Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion" to an abrupt close. Of course, the 407th in name only, continued to play a large part in the European Theater of Operations. With an entirely new roster of enlisted men and officers, the 407th was sent to Versailles for MP duty.

Our fighting men, who for three years ably demonstrated their ability at war, are now engaged in the equally hard task of securing the peace. Although our battalion is no more, the years of comradeship, of living together, and fighting a common foe, will never be forgotten.

It is my fervent hope that the pages of this book will serve as a constant reminder of your friends in the 407th.



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Harley F. Smith, AAA Gun Crewman, Easton, Maine.
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Richard E. Draper, AAA Gun Crewman, 19 Galena Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts.
William Niemiec, AAA Gun Crewman, 5419 Proctor Street, Detroit, Michigan.
Alexander J. Sagnella, Radio Operator, 59 Fillmore Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
Charles F. Stuart, Power Plant Operator, 37 Vine Street, Middleboro, Massachusetts.

Charles A. Neilley, Truck Driver, 172 Maple Avenue, Wallington, New Jersey.
 Thomas F. Mahoney, Radar Crewman, 16 Henry Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

PRIVATES FIRST CLASS

Peter J. Alber, AAA Gun Crewman, 20 Bussey Street, East Dedham, Massachusetts.
 Frank A. Ashworth, Heavy Machine Gunner, 22 Sea Street, R. F. D. 2, Methuen, Massachusetts.
 Robert L. Brelsford, Instrument Observer, R. D. 4, Coshocton, Ohio.
 Stanley J. Bourgeois, Heavy Machine Gunner, 30 Appelton Street, Waltham, Massachusetts.
 Bernard J. Carter, AAA Gun Crewman, 41 Lynde Street, Boston, Massachusetts.
 Martin E. Corrar, Heavy Machine Gunner, 130 Hamilton Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Benjamin Criscuolo, Instrument Observer, 51 Beecher Place, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Anthony DiMassa, AAA Gun Crewman, 206 Wooster Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Roy H. Ferrell, AAA Gun Crewman, Sharon, West Virginia.
 Cristel Garcia, AAA Gun Crewman, Box 1106, Alice, Texas.
 Floyd Hayes, Heavy Machine Gunner, Summerfield, Oklahoma.
 John F. Keane, Power Plant Operator, 533 East Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Jack M. Kucera, AAA Gun Crewman, 1307 West Second Street, Grand Island, Nebraska.
 John Lynn, Jr., AAA Gun Crewman, 700 North Paixton Street, Centralia, Pennsylvania.
 Floyd E. McNeal, AAA Gun Crewman, 9 Thomas Avenue, Caribou, Maine.
 Peter J. Onelli, Instrument Observer, 302 East Street, Dedham, Massachusetts.
 Enrico Picardo, AAA Gun Crewman, 109 Hamilton Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Philip H. Reed, AAA Gun Crewman, Phillips, Maine.
 Estele J. Roberson, Heavy Machine Gunner, General Delivery, Strawn, Texas.
 Glendon R. Salisbury, Light Truck Driver, R. D. 1, Sunbury, Ohio.
 Bynum G. Scott, Heavy Machine Gunner, Route 2, Hartshorne, Oklahoma.
 Gerard A. Soucy, AAA Gun Crewman, 40 Sparks Street, Lowell, Massachusetts.
 Earl Waitsox, Heavy Machine Gunner, Route 1, Anadarko, Oklahoma.
 William H. West, Light Truck Driver, General Delivery, Grayford, Oklahoma.
 James C. Allen, AAA Gun Crewman, General Delivery, Clayton, Oklahoma.
 Fred C. Avalos, AAA Gun Crewman, 12123 Mona Boulevard, Willowbrook, California.
 Wesley O. Blalock, AAA Gun Crewman, Route 4, Duncan, Oklahoma.
 Stephen I. Cable, AAA Crewman, General Delivery, Dewey, Oklahoma.
 Michael J. Cocca, Heavy Machine Gunner, R. F. D. 1, Box 18, Rumford, Maine.
 Salvator J. Costanza, Instrument Observer, 229 North Sixth Street, San Jose, California.
 Alfred F. DellaValle, Instrument Observer, 192 St. John Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 John DeStefano, AAA Gun Crewman, 64 St. John Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Charlie Fultz, AAA Gun Crewman, 3202 West Fortieth Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
 James F. Giordano, Instrument Observer, 143 Exchange Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Albert T. Heighington, AAA Gun Crewman, 85 Pine Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Charles F. Kilgore, Radar Crewman, 22 Wentworth Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 Toivo J. Kyllonen, Cook, R. F. D. 1, Harrison, Maine.
 Wendell J. MacDonald, Radar Crewman, 22 Spruce Street, Rumford, Maine.
 Louis R. Monette, AAA Gun Crewman, Bakersfield, Vermont.
 Henry Owlecio, Heavy Machine Gunner, Zuni, New Mexico.
 James F. Plumlee, AAA Gun Crewman, Route 2, S. Euclid Riverside Drive, Ontario, California.
 Adelard A. Riendeau, AAA Gun Crewman, 85 Transit Street, Woonsocket, Rhode Island.
 Loney H. Rogers, AAA Gun Crewman, Route 1, Sagerton, Texas.
 Thomas L. Sill, AAA Gun Crewman, Alma, Arkansas.
 James D. Scroggins, Heavy Machine Gunner, Route 1, Cleveland, Arkansas.
 Norman E. Taylor, AAA Gun Crewman, 1111 Fairview Avenue, Lima, Ohio.
 Harry L. Wakefield, Heavy Machine Gunner, Hollis Center, Maine.
 N. C. White, Instrument Observer, P. O. Box 216, Plainview, Texas.
 J. C. Allen, AAA Gun Crewman, 400 East Seventh Street, Ada, Oklahoma.
 Joseph H. Beauregard, Heavy Machine Gunner, 58 Main Street, Albion, Rhode Island.
 John M. Burns, Heavy Machine Gunner, General Delivery, Sallisaw, Oklahoma.
 Andrew J. Carrano, AAA Gun Crewman, 55½ Collis Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Howard G. Cox, Radar Crewman, 1561 Unionport Road, Bronx, New York.
 Raymond P. Crampton, Heavy Machine Gunner, 52 Henry Street, New Haven, Conn.
 William B. DiCrosta, AAA Gun Crewman, 179 Exchange Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 William A. Dorman, AAA Gun Crewman, Box 73, Corona Foothill Lemon Co., Corona, California.
 Henry J. Gallant, AAA Gun Crewman, 67 Crescent Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts.
 Robert H. Greene, AAA Gun Crewman, Box 494, Farmersville, Texas.
 William T. Kadil, AAA Gun Crewman, 116 Marble Ridge Road, North Andover, Massachusetts.
 James W. King, Jr., AAA Gun Crewman, 60 Shawmut Street, Concord, New Hampshire.
 William E. London, AAA Gun Crewman, 618 West Bridge Street, Blackwell, Oklahoma.
 Neil E. McCannell, AAA Gun Crewman, Princeton, Maine.
 Lujan Ondelacy, Heavy Machine Gunner, Zuni, New Mexico.
 Quinby J. Payne, Field Linesman, Dozier Route, Shamrock, Texas.
 William C. Porter, AAA Gun Crewman, R. F. D. 2, Dixfield, Maine.

Benjamin R. Roach, AAA Gun Crewman, R. F. D. 2, Elkton, Virginia.
 Stanley F. Ross, AAA Gun Crewman, 12 Lyman Street, Newton Center, Massachusetts.
 Joseph H. Saverese, AAA Gun Crewman, 259 James Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Robert H. Smith, Jr., AAA Gun Crewman, R. F. D. 2, Munford, Alabama.
 James E. Turner, AAA Gun Crewman, 828 South Eighth Street, Waco, Texas.
 Jack L. Wenerstrom, Radar Crewman, Route 1, Sandy, Utah.
 Granville T. Wootten, AAA Gun Crewman, R. F. D. 1, Millsboro, Delaware.
 Walter Woykovsky, AAA Gun Crewman, 176 Barbour Street, Hartford, Connecticut.
 Chester M. Zabek, Field Linesman, 7 Cherry Street, Ware, Massachusetts.

BATTERY "B"—407TH AAA GUN BATTALION

FIRST SERGEANTS

Charles N. Givens, First Sergeant, 308 Wabash Street, Kansas City, Missouri.
 Loy W. Roberson, First Sergeant, Alma, Arkansas.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Bartram H. Banks, Chief of Section, 1107 Wells Place, Stratford, Connecticut.

STAFF SERGEANTS

Leo T. Gussick, Mess Sergeant, 127 East Ninth Street, Tracy, California.
 Rudy C. Marinez, Supply Sergeant, 328 East Forty-second Place, Los Angeles, California.
 Frederick G. Naylor, Gun Commander, 115 Grand Avenue, Swanton, Vermont.

TECHNICIANS THIRD GRADE

Bennie E. Alberico, Radar Repairman (SCR 584), 185 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
 James J. Nocito, Electrician, F/C AA, 121 Ripka Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

SERGEANTS

Louis L. Cormier, Communications Chief, 167 Hampshire Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts.
 Eugene F. Luciano, Chief of Director, 163 Auburn Street, Cranston, Rhode Island.
 Joseph A. Rehmann, Machine Gun NCO, Milwaukee, Michigan.
 Elmer T. Williams, Chief Radar Operator, 119 Twelfth Avenue N. W., Ardmore, Oklahoma.
 John P. Curley, Jr., Communications Chief, 135 West Spruce Street, Milford, Massachusetts.
 John N. Puglisi, Height Finder Observer, 35 Stevens Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 George L. Remer, Gun Commander, R. F. D. No. 2, Cologne, Minnesota.
 Edwin J. Wawrzyniak, Machine Gun NCO, 5142 South Aberdeen Street, Chicago, Illinois.
 Amos A. Gibbs, Gun Commander, East Waco Avenue, Cooper, Texas.
 Albert L. Morris, Communications Chief, Box 27, Palmdale, California.
 Everett M. Thomas, Gun Commander, R. D. 2, Steubenville, Ohio.

TECHNICIANS FOURTH GRADE

Elmer W. Bertram, Artillery Mechanic, Route No. 5, Box 606, Waukesha, Wisconsin.
 Sabatino V. Imondi, First Cook, 31 Hagan Street, Providence, Rhode Island.
 Ralph P. Randolph, Operator Height Finder, Mosquero, New Mexico.
 Waldo D. Brown, First Cook, 320 Oakwood, Bradford, Ohio.
 William S. McLaughlin, Radar Operator (SCR 584), 18 Boughton Road, Newport, Rhode Island.
 Rodney R. Swift, Radar Operator (SCR 584), R. F. D. No. 1, St. Johnsbury, Vermont.
 Graham D. Faust, Operator Height Finder, Box No. 43, Centreville, Mississippi.
 Ralph W. Norcross, First Cook, 6553 Live Oak, Bell Gardens, California.

CORPORALS

Francis J. Burns, Battery Clerk, 11 Bowen Street, Lonsdale, Rhode Island.
 William I. E. Erbe, Gunner, AA, 15015 Race, Allentown, Pennsylvania.
 William A. Maursky, Ammunition NCO, 7926 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.
 John L. Raines, Ammunition NCO, Route No. 1, Seminole, Oklahoma.
 William C. Wilson, Range Section NCO, 1638 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Albert A. Cadieux, Machine Gun NCO, 7 Commercial Street, Thorndike, Massachusetts.
 Gerard R. Fredette, Observer Fire Control AA, 5 Plymouth Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts.
 Albert W. McClendon, Gunner, AA, Victory Rural Station, Clovis, New Mexico.
 Marion Schweitzer, Ammunition NCO, Route No. 2, Geary, Oklahoma.
 Anthony R. DiCapua, Gunner, AA, 224 St. John Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Steve Hilliard, Ammunition NCO, General Delivery, Lewisville, Texas.
 James M. Prentice, Jr., Gunner, AA, 11811 West Outer Drive, Detroit, Michigan.
 George N. Skinner, Ammunition NCO, R. F. D. No. 3, Rockville, Connecticut.

TECHNICIANS FIFTH GRADE

Horatio A. Barbour, Power Plant Operator, Dixfield, Maine.
 Ernest A. Gallant, Fuze Setter, 431 William Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.
 Andrew E. Harris, Electrician, 2324 East Virginia Street, Evansville, Indiana.

Alfred L. Loman, Fuze Setter, Box No. 12, Antlers, Oklahoma.
 Paul Reynolds, Field Lineman, General Delivery, Colbert, Oklahoma.
 Armand Sirois, Battery Mail Clerk, 359 Lowell Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts.
 Joseph C. Buonome, Fuze Setter, 276 Blatchley Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Henry Garcia, Switchboard Operator, 327 Avenue 20, Los Angeles, California.
 Russell M. Hightower, Electrician, 217 West Bush Street, Lemoore, California.
 Ivan M. Nelson, Power Plant Operator, Route No. 2, Seminole, Oklahoma.
 James A. Robinson, Radar Operator (SCR 584), Ashland, Maine.
 Joseph Sullo, Radar Operator (SCR 584), 39 Main Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 John P. Czesnowski, Truck Driver, Light, 8 South Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 Joseph P. Gulino, Radio Operator, 179½ Wallace Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Tony J. Lima, Fuze Setter, Box 733, Santa Maria, California.
 Leonard A. Pratt, Fuze Setter, 288 North Main Street, Middleboro, Massachusetts.
 Gregory H. Rossetti, Cook, 31 County Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

PRIVATE'S FIRST CLASS

Philip Alpert, Machine Gunner, 97½ Elliott Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Roberto Aragon, Machine Gunner, Las Lagunas, San Miguel County, New Mexico.
 Watson H. Bagloe, Instrument Observer, 5½ Lebanon Street, Hanover, New Hampshire.
 Stanley W. Bereta, Utility Repairman, 4541 South Wolcott Street, Chicago, Illinois.
 Alvin Braswell, Cannoneer, 1302 South Detroit, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
 Edward J. Marcincavage, Cannoneer, 145 South Line Street, Frackville, Pennsylvania.
 Joseph A. Midolo, Bugler, 546 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Andrew M. Mulqueen, Cannoneer, 216 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts.
 John L. Pericello, Cannoneer, 101 Crown Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 William A. Porosky, Cannoneer, 661 Railroad Street, Windber, Pennsylvania.
 Frank J. Rieker, Fire Control Observer, 514 First Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
 Herbert L. Rowe, Ammunition Handler, High Street, Wilton, Maine.
 Clarence F. Spinney, Instrument Observer, 25 Granite Street, Portland, Maine.
 Frederick J. Vickery, Ammunition Handler, 502 West Cumberland Street, Philadelphia, Penna.
 Cecil A. Whitehouse, Ammunition Handler, 385 Main Street, Bangor, Maine.
 Harrison W. Carder, Instrument Observer, 414 Columbia Street, Fairmont, West Virginia.
 Russell C. Chase, Radar Operator (SCR 584), Rocky Gutter Street, Middleboro, Massachusetts.
 Alfred J. Ciaccia, Cannoneer, 199 Kent Street, Rochester, New York.
 James De Pino (Killed in Action); Mrs. Rose De Pino (mother), 43 Greene Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Martin H. Driend, Cannoneer, 466 Legion Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Stanley O. Hamilton, Cannoneer, 1740 Cedar Street, Berkeley, California.
 Raymond N. Harjo, Power Plant Operator, 845 North Gerry Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
 E. W. James, Gunner, AA, Route No. 3, Box 69, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.
 Elmer Kurtz, Machine Gunner, Route No. 1, Box 2, Sykeston, North Dakota.
 Adam Lehmann, Machine Gunner, Route No. 1, Outlook, Washington.
 Walter Alves, Gunner, AA, Plymouth Road, East Wareham, Massachusetts.
 John R. Askew, Cannoneer, General Delivery, Hugo, Oklahoma.
 Robert D. Beck, Cannoneer, 3040 Sunny Nook Drive, Los Angeles, California.
 Yarber L. Black, Telephone Switchboard Operator, Box 527, Westwood, California.
 Erven L. Bray, Cannoneer, General Delivery, Lequire, Oklahoma.
 Paul A. McCutchen, Cannoneer, 407 East Main Street, New Albany, Indiana.
 George Miller, Cannoneer, Route No. 1, Locust Grove, Oklahoma.
 James Napoli, Cannoneer, 82 Greenwood Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Thomas N. Pesut, Field Telephone Operator, 10242 Commercial Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
 Waymouth R. Porter, Cannoneer, Lubec, Maine.
 Roland J. Ringuette, Instrument Observer, 50 Leonard Street, North Attleboro, Massachusetts.
 Alfred P. Schwartzfeld, Radar Operator (SCR 584), 2263 Taylor Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.
 Michael Talancy, Machine Gunner, Canal Street, Forge Village, Massachusetts.
 William L. Warren, Cannoneer, Route No. 1, Palmer, Missouri.
 Thomas P. Whitfield, Cannoneer, General Delivery, Durant, Oklahoma.
 Joseph Celentano, Cannoneer, 2216 38th Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York.
 Norman J. Chenevert, Machine Gunner, 78 Dorchester Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 Lawrence Civitello, Gunner, AA, 56 Stevens Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Nicholas DeRosa, Radar Operator (SCR 584), 530 East 150th Street, Bronx, New York.
 Luther A. Duckett, Cannoneer, Box 293, Tavares, Florida.
 Kenneth L. Haley, Cannoneer, 1600 North Quincy Street, Enid, Oklahoma.
 Paul R. Hughes, Utility Repairman, 130 Warren Street, Newton Centre, Massachusetts.
 Aubrey L. Jones, Gunner, AA, 1004 South Washington Street, Hobart, Oklahoma.
 Delbert E. LaFlex, Ammunition Handler, Route No. 3, Waupaca, Wisconsin.
 George F. Lehmann, Cannoneer, 2508 West University Street, St. Louis, Missouri.
 Giro A. Amore, Cannoneer, 321 Exchange Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 George W. Atwood, Instrument Observer, 19 Lennox Street, Portland, Maine.
 Robert F. Bell, Instrument Observer, 151 Spencer Avenue, Chelsea, Massachusetts.

Franklin W. Bowen, Intelligence Observer, 1311 Bigley Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia.
 William J. Brown, Cannoneer, Cleveland, Mississippi.
 Freddie J. Michaud, Cannoneer, Belmont Park Street, Caribou, Maine.
 Arthur N. Molleur, Cannoneer, 38 Whalley Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
 James R. Neal, Cannoneer, 14636 Burt Road, Detroit, Michigan.
 William C. Phillips, Field Lineman, 507 Second Street, Shenandoah, Virginia.
 Mearle W. Rasmussen, Cook, General Delivery, Logan, Kansas.
 Frank H. Roe, Cannoneer, Vivian, Arkansas.
 Leo Simons, Instrument Observer, 35 Argonne Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 William W. Teague, Truck Driver, 1022 Second Street, Dayton, Kentucky.
 George L. Watson, Ammunition Handler, R. F. D. No. 1, Farmington, Maine.
 John E. Wilson, Machine Gunner, 2 South Street, Eastport, Maine.
 James W. Chapman, Machine Gunner, 19 Shelton Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Robert L. Church, Machine Gunner, Cambria, Virginia.
 Gerald A. Cullen, Instrument Observer, 577 Quinipiac Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Anthony DeVergillo, Machine Gunner, 175 Panama Street, Pittstown, Pennsylvania.
 Gerard L. Gomez, Intelligence Observer, 1540 Whalley Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Burnice Hall, Cannoneer, Saddle, Arkansas.
 Andy B. Hunter, Machine Gunner, Box 97, Electra, Texas.
 Stanley J. Katulis, Cannoneer, 330 South Main Street, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.
 Leo J. Lavoie, Cook, 33 Lynbrook Road, Methuen, Massachusetts.
 Harry Luff, Instrument Observer, 91 Providence Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 Anderson Wooten, Cannoneer, Route No. 4, Louisa, Kentucky.

PRIVATES

John Baggs, Instrument Observer, P. O. Box, Mansfield Depot, Connecticut.
 Charles Goldstein, Cannoneer, 75 East Seventh Street, New York City, New York.
 Pepino J. Pellegrino, Ammunition Handler, 4 March Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 Philip M. Rodriguez, Ammunition Handler, 2416½ East 55th Street, Los Angeles, California.
 Gerald F. Trafecante, Machine Gunner, 162 Plantation Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 John W. Cooper, Cannoneer, 96 Demerest Avenue, Avenal, New Jersey.
 David W. Keese, Machine Gunner, Neon, Kentucky.
 Joseph D. Peterson, Cannoneer, Duchesne, Duchesne County, Utah.
 Albert M. Rosa, Machine Gunner, 102 Charles Street, Waterbury, Connecticut.
 O. C. Crisp, Cannoneer, 616 Railroad Avenue, Gainesville, Texas.
 James W. F. Lashbrook, Cannoneer, Route, No. 1, Fort Smith, Arkansas.
 Robert L. Pickeral, Jr., Intelligence Observer, 130 Division Street, Trenton, New Jersey.
 Euliojio C. Rubio, Machine Gunner, Box 914, Pecos, Texas.
 Norman H. Trowbridge, Ammunition Handler, Hackett Street, South Attleboro, Massachusetts.

BATTERY "C"—407TH AAA GUN BATTALION

FIRST SERGEANT

Earl G. Shepard, Watervliet, Michigan.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Max R. Bashore, Range Section NCO, 205 North Oakland Street, St. Johns, Michigan.

STAFF SERGEANTS

Giro DeNicola, Supply Sergeant, 450 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Sylvanus L. Hahn, Gun Commander, Crawfordsville, Iowa.
 Thomas J. Farmer, Mess Sergeant, 89 Wayne Street, Jersey City, New Jersey.
 Peter A. Franco, Chief Gun Commander, 474 Lombard Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Jack C. Turner, AAA Fire Control, 1125 Cook Street, San Jose, California.

TECHNICIAN THIRD GRADE

George F. Dubuque, Radar Repairman, 64 Sever Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

SERGEANTS

Dominic J. Bizzarro, Height Finder Observer, 97 Grafton Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 Louis P. Faulkner, Machine Gun Commander, General Delivery, Grant, Oklahoma.
 Charles C. Schwarz, Gun Commander, Granville, Iowa.
 Albert T. Carlson, Gun Commander, Route 1, Box 37, Bowbells, North Dakota.
 Alfred G. Harper, Communications Chief, 115 Massasoit Road, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 William T. Swift, Gun Commander, 574 Howard Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Frank DePonte, Communication Chief, 24 Franklin Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Adrian L. Magnan, Radar Chief, 1123 South Fifth Street, Brainerd, Minnesota.
 William J. Wells, AA Range Section NCO, 335 Wadsworth Ave., New York City, New York.

TECHNICIANS FOURTH GRADE

Warren L. Atkins, Height Finder Observer, 247 High Street, Warren, Massachusetts.
 Vittie Latonie, Height Finder Observer, 1653 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Charles H. Peluso, Jr., Cook, 93 Central Street, Foxboro, Massachusetts.
 Marvin B. Clark, Mess Sergeant, Arlie Route, Dodson, Texas.
 John Parashos, Radar Crewman, 2144 North Webster Street, Portland, Oregon.
 David Cooper, Radar Crewman, 17 Cheney Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts.
 Henry L. Pawelski, Gun Mechanic, Route 1, Box 91, Knowlton, Wisconsin.
 Joseph A. Powers, Cook, 108 West Seiberling, Peoria Heights, Illinois.

CORPORALS

Peter A. Adamaitis, Ammunition Corporal, 304 Elm Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
 Charles De Carlo, Gunner, 107 County Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 James D. Haggard, Ammunition Corporal, Route 1, Hooks, Texas.
 Kenneth E. Price, Gunner, General Delivery, Moore, Oklahoma.
 Albert S. Beaird, Machine Gun Corporal, General Delivery, Merkle, Texas.
 Charles R. De Lieto, Battery Clerk, 136 Chestnut Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Raymond W. Krueger, Gun Crewman, 104 Franklin Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa.
 William C. Stewart, Ammunition Corporal, Box 214, Custer City, Oklahoma.
 Richard E. Daker, Gun Crewman, 350 Common Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts.
 Allan C. Gardner, Gunner, Box 247, Enfield, New Hampshire.
 Stanley F. Petrowski, Observer Fire Control, 251 James Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Lawrence F. Sylvester, Gunner, Taunton Street, Lakeville, Massachusetts.

TECHNICIANS FIFTH GRADE

Joseph U. Atencio, Field Lineman, 324 East Hemon Street, Tucumcari, New Mexico.
 Robert L. Cutts, Fuze Setter, Meriden, New Hampshire.
 Arnold A. Madore, Fuze Setter, 55 Exchange Street, Presque Isle, Maine.
 Thomas D. Rapini, Fuze Setter, 342 Poplar Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Willie W. Slayter, Truck Driver, Route 1, Wylie, Texas.
 Oliver K. Nelson, Radar Crewman, 142 Howe Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 James M. Brennan, Mail Clerk, 49 Locke Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Ewald L. Hessinger, Cook, 14 Clay Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Clarence H. Ritchie, Electrician, 58 West Peoria Street, Pasadena, California.
 Cecil R. Thornton, Radio Operator, Topsfield, Maine.
 Florence D. Crowley, Jr., Switchboard Operator, 165 Messinger Street, Canton, Massachusetts.
 Will C. Johnson, Cook, Route 1, Hale Center, Texas.
 Casimer S. Pachota, Radar Crewman, 5842 Chopin Street, Detroit, Michigan.
 Norman H. Schmalz, Gun Crewman, 71 Bussey Place, East Dedham, Massachusetts.
 Dillon M. Walkup, Radar Crewman, Route 1, Kiowa, Oklahoma.
 Guy Woodward, Jr., Radar Crewman, West Jonesport, Maine.

PRIVATEES FIRST CLASS

James L. Baker, Gun Crewman, Box 514, Ballinger, Texas.
 Charles P. Campbell, Gun Crewman, 225 Radford Place, Knoxville, Tennessee.
 Albert J. Comeau, Instrument Observer, 80 Essex Avenue, Rumford, Maine.
 Cecil W. Cunningham, Machine Gunner, South Maine Street, West Lebanon, New Hampshire.
 James E. Davis, Gun Crewman, 99 Marion Street, Clarksville, Tennessee.
 Leonard R. Devanna, Bugler, 232 Lincoln Street, Lexington, Massachusetts.
 Paul J. Duquette, Gun Crewman, 113 Prospect Street, Willimansett, Massachusetts.
 William I. Gosnell, Observation Station, 405 Courtland Avenue, Fresno, California.
 Roger A. Hamel, Observer Instrument, 391 Arah Street, Manchester, New Hampshire.
 Milton R. Koth, Machine Gunner, Odessa, Washington.
 Simon Lurie, Radar Crewman, 27 Greenwood Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Bruce L. Massingill, Machine Gunner, Route 1, Evant, Texas.
 Gerald D. McBride, Gun Crewman, 12 North Schaefer Street, Athens, Ohio.
 Willard H. Moffitt, Gun Crewman, MRT Route, Dunlop, Tennessee.
 Raymond L. Nealley, Gun Crewman, R. F. D. 3, Monroe, Maine.
 Pedro Ortiz, Gun Crewman, 601 East Seventh Street, El Paso, Texas.
 Anthony Perry, Gun Crewman, 41 Magnolia Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
 Richard I. Pierzynski, Machine Gunner, 5116 South Hermitage Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
 Charles J. Reichardt, Machine Gunner, 5935 Weymouth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 Charles W. Sandifer, Gun Crewman, Route 1, Elgin, Texas.
 Melvin S. Smith, Gun Crewman, 62 Hutchings Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts.
 Pedro Sustaita, Machine Gunner, 314 South Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.
 Charles L. Thompson, Machine Gunner, Cottonwood, South Dakota.
 Ernest Ullom, Gun Crewman, Route 2, Vinita, Oklahoma.
 Refugio Vasquez, Gun Crewman, 1625 Harrison Street, Brownsville, Texas.
 Raymond W. Young, Telephone Operator, Hollis Center, Maine.
 Salvatore Barletta, Gun Crewman, 224 St. John Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Elmer C. Chapman, Gun Crewman, Route D, Lamesa, Texas.
 Clyde R. Cope, Machine Gunner, Route 1, Calumet, Oklahoma.
 Roger L. Cunningham, Gun Crewman, 147 Winthrop Street, Taunton, Massachusetts.

Anthony Dellaquilla, Gun Crewman, 813 Grand Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Anthony D. Gioia, Gun Crewman, 181 Greene Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Armando D. Erba, Gun Crewman, 6 Academy Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Thomas E. Grabeel, Machine Gunner, General Delivery, Wright City, Oklahoma.
 Richard L. Jacobellis, Instrument Observer, 17 Marion Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island.
 Zephirin G. LaFerriere, Gun Crewman, 23 Hastings Street, St. Johnsbury, Vermont.
 Albert Marino, Gun Crewman, 11 Vine Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 John A. Matan, Fire Control Observer, 75 Morris Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Dexter E. Merchant, Gun Crewman, R. F. D. 2, Buckfield, Maine.
 Johnie L. Moyer, Machine Gunner, Route 2, Pryor, Oklahoma.
 Maynard H. Nelson, Gun Crewman, 224 West St. Paul Avenue, Waukesha, Wisconsin.
 Charles W. Paerker, Jr., Gun Crewman, R. F. D. 2, Caribou, Maine.
 Norman Peterson, Gun Crewman, 27 Union Street, Lynn, Massachusetts.
 Freddie C. Raymond, Machine Gunner, Strong, Maine.
 Mario J. Ricci, Instrument Observer, 247 Oak Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
 Carl H. Schneider, Gun Crewman, 735 East Lincoln Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 Raymond Sojka, Gun Crewman, R. F. D. 3, Jobs Hill, Ellington, Connecticut.
 Robert H. Templeton, Gun Crewman, 39-29 5th Street, Woodside, New York.
 Eugene S. Tyburski, Radar Crewman, 9 Hill Street, Thorndike, Massachusetts.
 Robert J. Vaicilionis, Instrument Observer, 55 Vernon Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 Lorin E. Voyles, Gun Crewman, Star Route, Neelyville, Missouri.
 Arno'd L. Botwright, Machine Gunner, 425 Laura Street, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania.
 Earl R. Clevenger, Gun Crewman, 1450 Park Avenue, Canon City, Colorado.
 Melvin F. Costlow, Gun Crewman, Box 61, St. Michael, Pennsylvania.
 Floyd Davis, Gun Crewman, General Delivery, Vivian, Louisiana.
 Armedo J. Delgado, Gun Crewman, 437 Woodbine Street, Cranston, Rhode Island.
 Walter L. Due, Machine Gunner, Flippin, Arkansas.
 Russell M. Fowler, Instrument Observer, R. F. D. 4, Caribou, Maine.
 William A. Griffin, Machine Gunner, 14 Reed Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.
 Charles J. Kacmar, Machine Gunner, 341 West 15th Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania.
 Oscar Larson, Machine Gunner, 7718 Evans Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
 John G. Martinez, Gun Crewman, 945 South Breed Street, Los Angeles, California.
 Michael Mazurek, Radar Crewman, 12 Webb Street, Windsor Locks, Connecticut.
 Donald W. Merkle, Gun Crewman, 812 Third Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
 William Nathan, Intelligence Observer, 64 Brunswick Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts.
 Manuel G. Ortiz, Gun Crewman, El Pueblo, San Miguel, New Mexico.
 James J. Patchin, Gun Crewman, 51 Clark Street, Dedham, Massachusetts.
 Edmond G. Phillips, Gun Crewman, 1124 West Lowell Street, Fairmont, West Virginia.
 Russell D. Raymond, Gun Crewman, 555 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, California.
 James Russo, Gun Crewman, 218 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut.
 Bernard J. Sickman, Truck Driver, Montrose, Missouri.
 Alfred E. Stewart, Jr., Intelligence, Box 342, Lebanon, New Hampshire.
 Ben Y. Thomas, Machine Gunner, Manuelito, New Mexico.
 George L. Thurmond, Gun Crewman, Route 4, Hollis, Oklahoma.
 Jan Van Buren, Field Lineman, 253 Bay Forty-seventh Street, Brooklyn, New York.
 Leet Ware, Gun Crewman, Groton, Vermont.

PRIVATES

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 Louis C. Sanchez, Gun Crewman, Sugarland, Texas.
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 Thomas F. LaBelle, Gun Crewman, 379 Wellington Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island.
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 Arthur E. Turner, Telephone Operator, Bucksport, Maine.

BATTERY "D"—407TH AAA GUN BATTALION

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 Robert E. McCune, First Sergeant, General Delivery, Richards, Texas.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

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THE BUZZ BOMB KINGS

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 Robert P. Sheridan, Mess Sergeant, 1032 Loma Vista Drive, Long Beach, California.

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 Thomas L. Moffitt, Height Finder Observer, Baileyville, Maine.
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 Artie Mogor, Cook, 2360 Twenty-seventh Street, Astoria, Long Island, New York.
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 Paul J. Rogers, Radar Crewman, 24 Austin Street, Norwood, Massachusetts.
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THE BUZZ BOMB KINGS

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PRIVATES

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